

R. GOSCINNY **Asterix** A. UDERZO

Asterix *and*
the MISSING SCROLL

Written by Jean-Yves FERRI

Illustrated by Didier CONRAD



GOSCINNY AND UDERZO

PRESENT

An Asterix Adventure

ASTERIX AND THE MISSING SCROLL

Written by JEAN-YVES FERRI

Illustrated by DIDIER CONRAD

Translated by ANTHEA BELL



Colour by THIERRY MÉBARKI

Orion

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ORION CHILDREN'S BOOKS

First published in Great Britain in 2015 by Hodder & Stoughton

1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

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Original edition © 2015 Les Éditions Albert René

English translation © 2015 Les Éditions Albert René

Original title: *Le Papyrus de César*

Exclusive licensee: Hachette Children's Group

Translator: Anthea Bell

Typography: Bryony Clark

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A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978-1-5101-0045-9 (cased)

ISBN 978-1-5101-0119-7 (Indian paperback)

ISBN 978-1-5101-0044-2 (ebook)

Printed and bound in Italy by Printer Trento S.R.L.

The paper and board used in this book are from well-managed forests and other responsible sources.



Orion Children's Books
An imprint of Hachette Children's Group
Part of Hodder & Stoughton
Carmelite House, 50 Victoria Embankment
London EC4Y 0DZ
An Hachette UK Company

www.hachette.co.uk
www.asterix.com
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THE YEAR IS 50 BC. GAUL IS ENTIRELY OCCUPIED BY THE ROMANS. WELL, NOT ENTIRELY ... ONE SMALL VILLAGE OF INDOMITABLE GAULS STILL HOLDS OUT AGAINST THE INVADERS. AND LIFE IS NOT EASY FOR THE ROMAN LEGIONARIES WHO GARRISON THE FORTIFIED CAMPS OF TOTORUM, AQUARIUM, LAUDANUM AND COMPENDIUM ...



ASTERIX, THE HERO OF THESE ADVENTURES. A SHREWD, CUNNING LITTLE WARRIOR, ALL PERILOUS MISSIONS ARE IMMEDIATELY ENTRUSTED TO HIM. ASTERIX GETS HIS SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH FROM THE MAGIC POTION BREWED BY THE DRUID GETAFIX . . .



OBELIX, ASTERIX'S INSEPARABLE FRIEND. A MENHIR DELIVERY MAN BY TRADE, ADDICTED TO WILD BOAR. OBELIX IS ALWAYS READY TO DROP EVERYTHING AND GO OFF ON A NEW ADVENTURE WITH ASTERIX - SO LONG AS THERE'S WILD BOAR TO EAT, AND PLENTY OF FIGHTING. HIS CONSTANT COMPANION IS DOGMATIX, THE ONLY KNOWN CANINE ECOLOGIST, WHO HOWLS WITH DESPAIR WHEN A TREE IS CUT DOWN.



GETAFIX, THE VENERABLE VILLAGE DRUID, GATHERS MISTLETOE AND BREWS MAGIC POTIONS. HIS SPECIALITY IS THE POTION WHICH GIVES THE DRINKER SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH. BUT GETAFIX ALSO HAS OTHER RECIPES UP HIS SLEEVE . . .



CACOFONIX, THE BARD. OPINION IS DIVIDED AS TO HIS MUSICAL GIFTS. CACOFONIX THINKS HE'S A GENIUS. EVERYONE ELSE THINKS HE'S UNSPEAKABLE. BUT SO LONG AS HE DOESN'T SPEAK, LET ALONE SING, EVERYBODY LIKES HIM . . .



FINALLY, VITALSTATISTIX, THE CHIEF OF THE TRIBE. MAJESTIC, BRAVE AND HOT-TEMPERED, THE OLD WARRIOR IS RESPECTED BY HIS MEN AND FEARED BY HIS ENEMIES. VITALSTATISTIX HIMSELF HAS ONLY ONE FEAR, HE IS AFRAID THE SKY MAY FALL ON HIS HEAD TOMORROW. BUT AS HE ALWAYS SAYS, TOMORROW NEVER COMES.

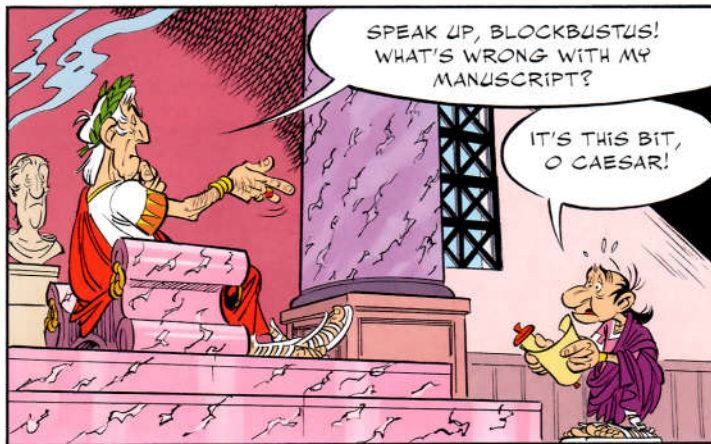
OUR STORY BEGINS IN JULIUS CAESAR'S PALACE IN ROME, JUST AS CAESAR HIMSELF IS RECEIVING HIS ADVISER AND PUBLISHER, THE ELOQUENT LIBELLUS BLOCKBUSTUS ...

COMMENTARIES ON THE WAR WITH THE GAULS. NOW THERE'S A SNAPPY TITLE, O CAESAR! I FORESEE A RUNAWAY SUCCESS!



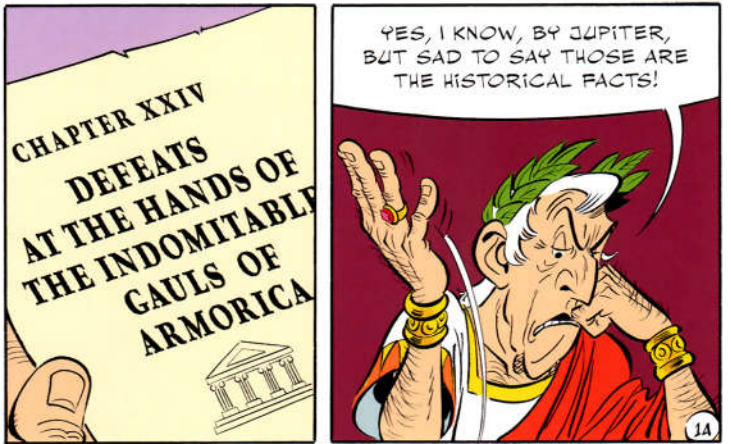
SPEAK UP, BLOCKBUSTUS! WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY MANUSCRIPT?

IT'S THIS BIT, O CAESAR!



CHAPTER XXIV
DEFEATS
AT THE HANDS OF
THE INDOMITABLE
GAULS OF
ARMORICA

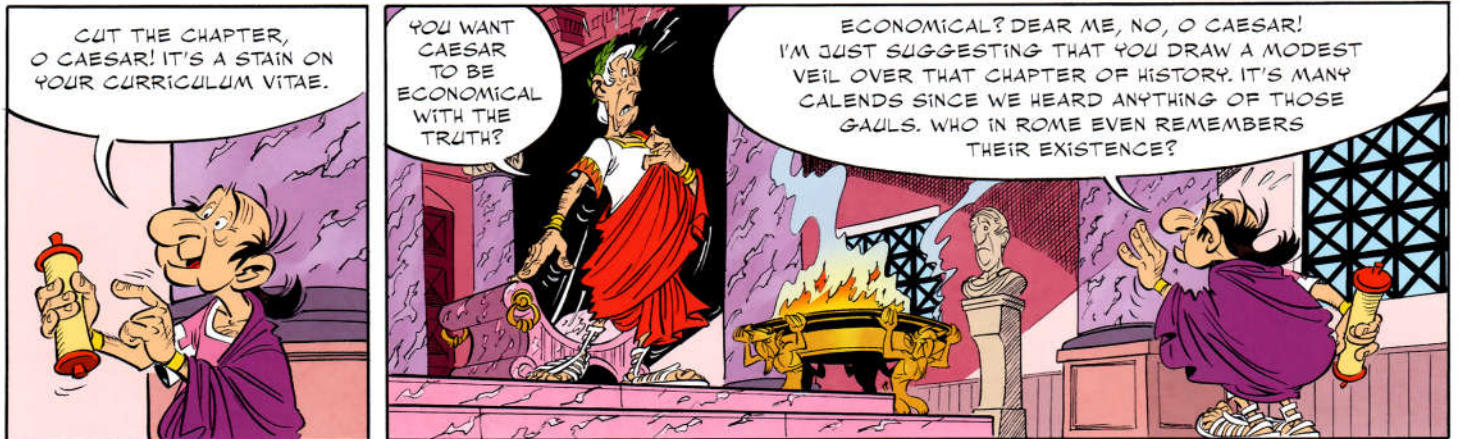
YES, I KNOW, BY JUPITER, BUT SAD TO SAY THOSE ARE THE HISTORICAL FACTS!



CUT THE CHAPTER, O CAESAR! IT'S A STAIN ON YOUR CURRICULUM VITAE.

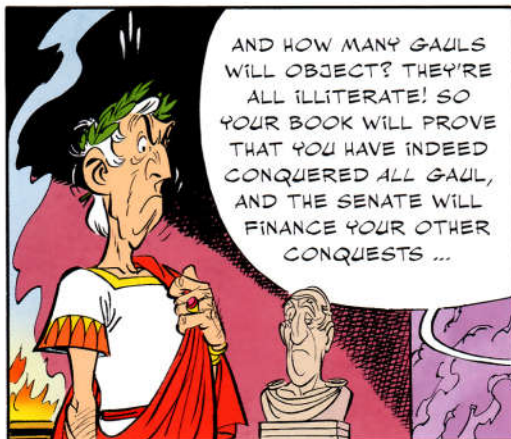
YOU WANT CAESAR TO BE ECONOMICAL WITH THE TRUTH?

ECONOMICAL? DEAR ME, NO, O CAESAR! I'M JUST SUGGESTING THAT YOU DRAW A MODEST VEIL OVER THAT CHAPTER OF HISTORY. IT'S MANY CALENDIS SINCE WE HEARD ANYTHING OF THOSE GAULS. WHO IN ROME EVEN REMEMBERS THEIR EXISTENCE?



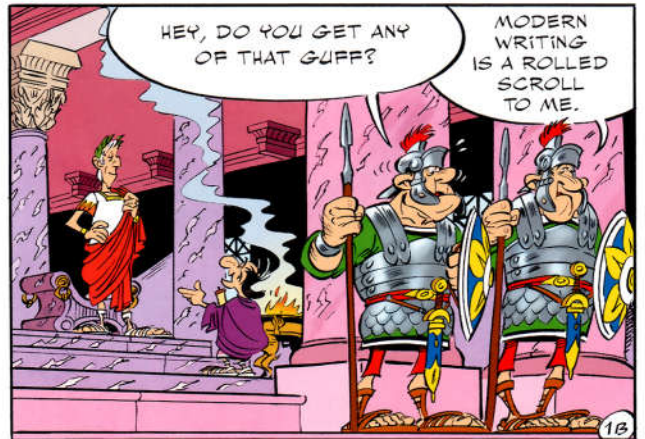
AND HOW MANY GAULS WILL OBJECT? THEY'RE ALL ILLITERATE! SO YOUR BOOK WILL PROVE THAT YOU HAVE INDEED CONQUERED ALL GAUL, AND THE SENATE WILL FINANCE YOUR OTHER CONQUESTS ...

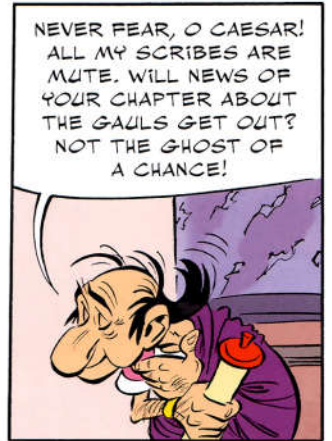
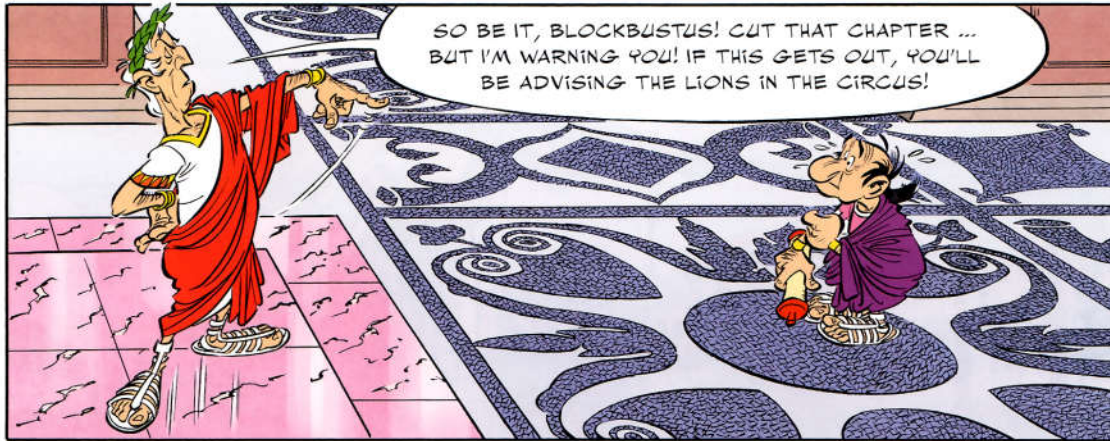
DEVILISHLY CLEVER, BLOCKBUSTUS! IT'S TEMPTING ...



HEY, DO YOU GET ANY OF THAT GUFF?

MODERN WRITING IS A ROLLED SCROLL TO ME.





THE MUTE NUMIDIAN SCRIBES* ARE LET INTO THE SECRET AT ONCE, AND ALL COPIES OF THE CHAPTER ARE SEIZED ...



PROTESTS FALL ON DEAF EARS. A MUTE SCRIBE HAS NO VOICE IN THE MATTER.



BUT ONE OF THEM, BIGDATHA, ESCAPES WITH A COPY OF THE CHAPTER ...



... LEAVING THE GUARDS ON DUTY HIGH AND DRY.



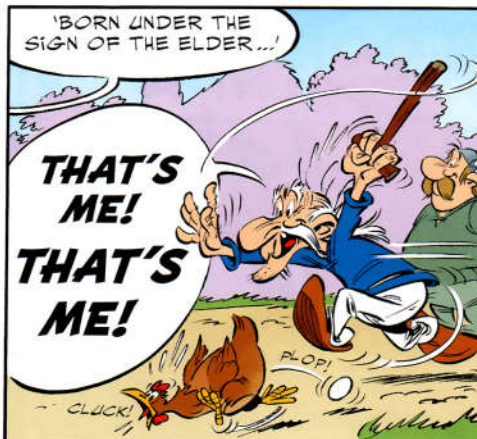
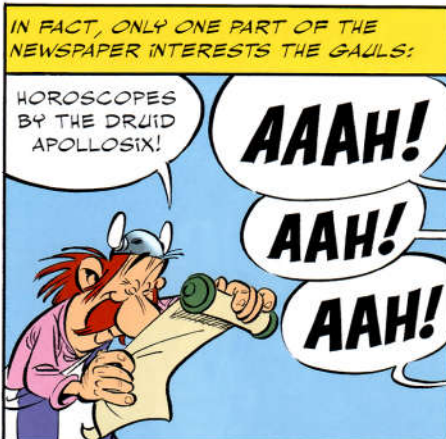
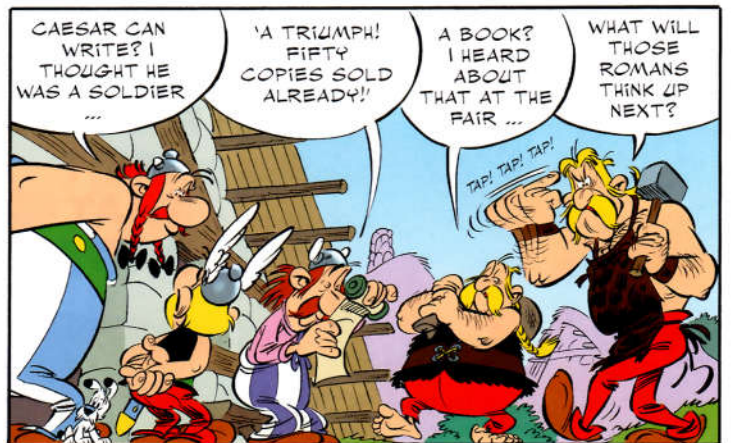
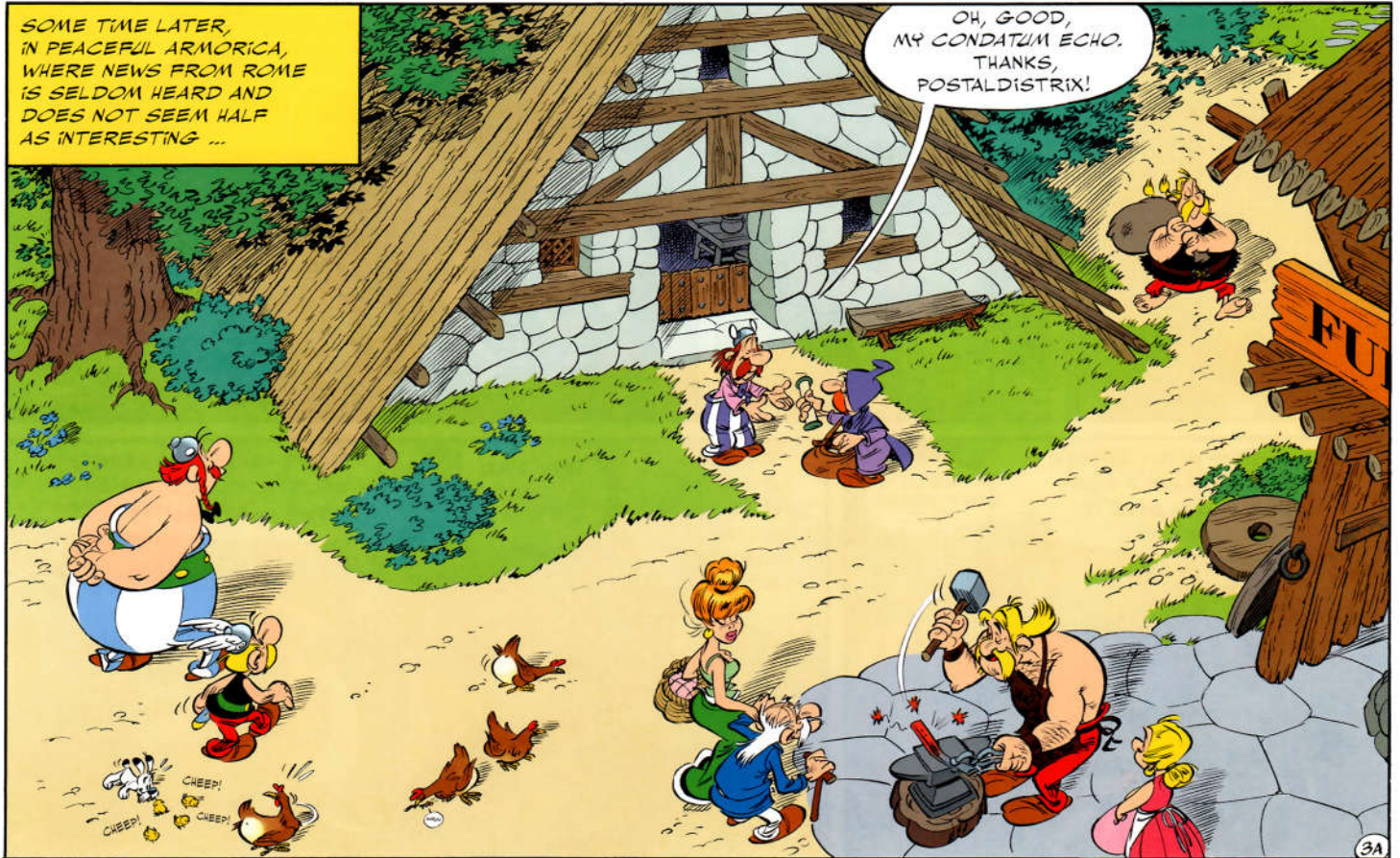
I'M PARCHED. WE NEED A HUMIDIFIER!

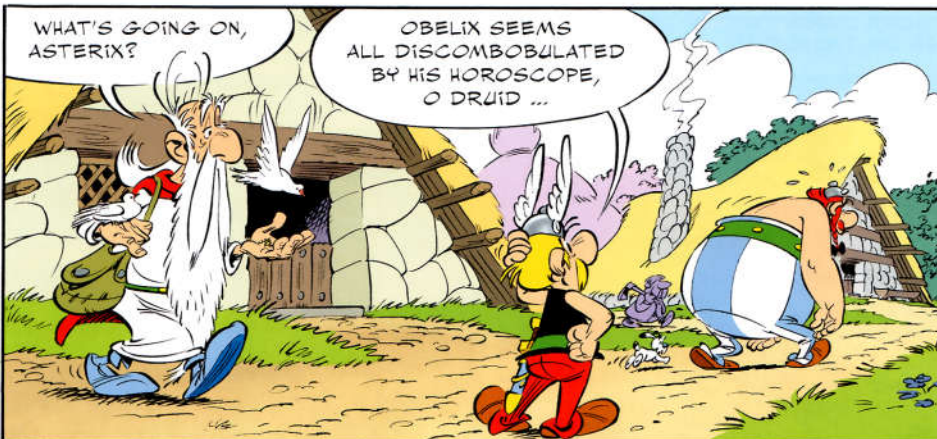
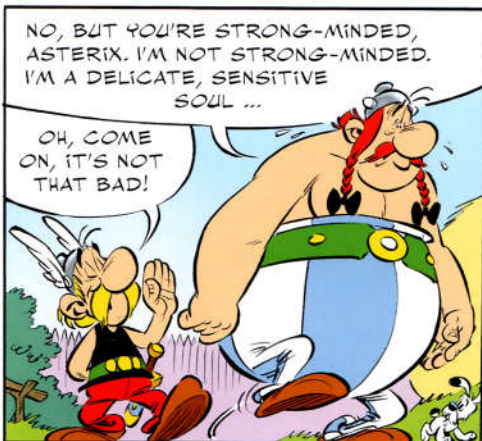
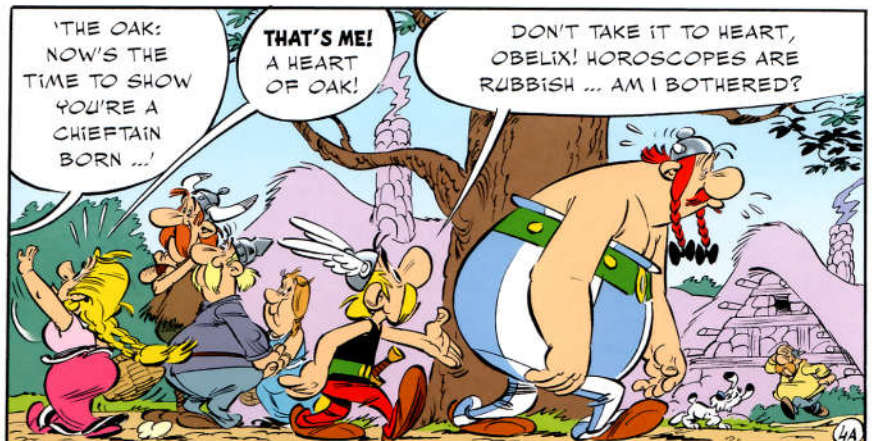
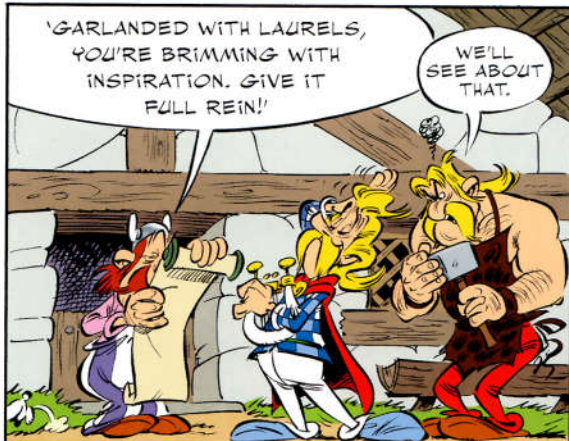
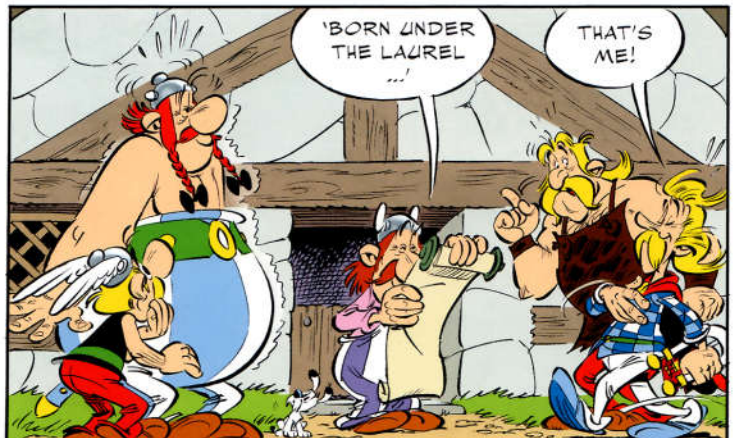
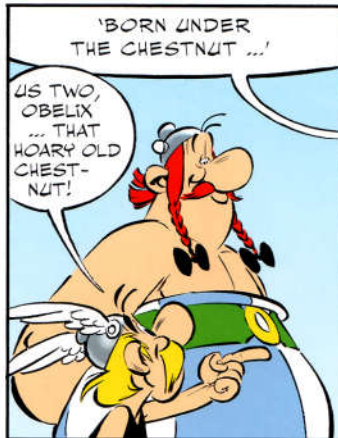


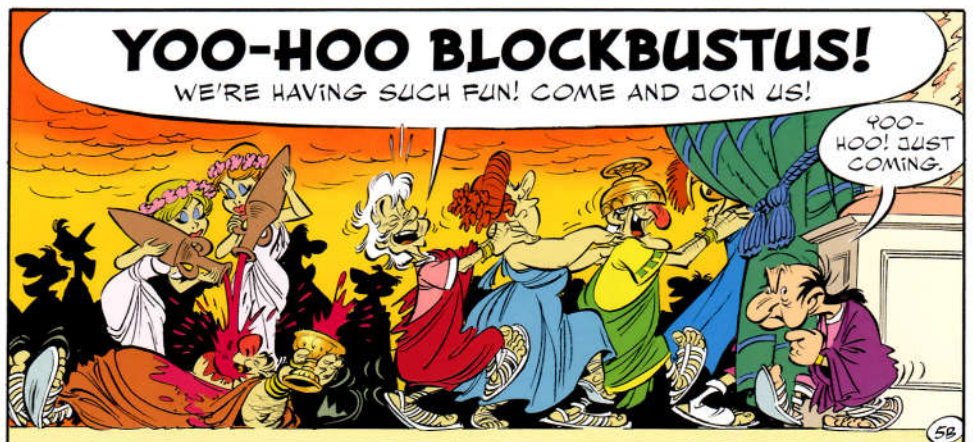
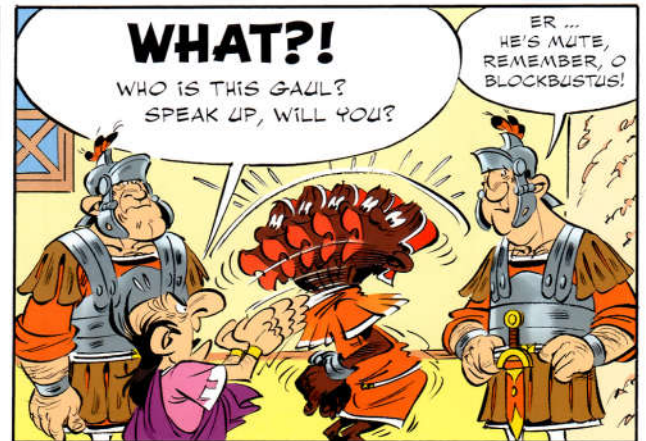
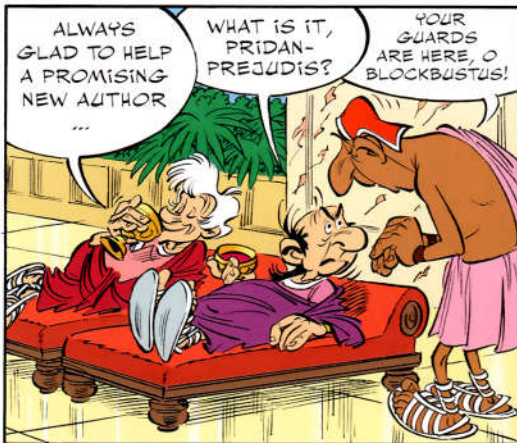
WE KNOW THE REST: CAESAR'S BOOK, IN ITS EXPURGATED VERSION, IS A HUGE HIT. THE ACTA DIURNA* OF ROME ALL AGREE ...

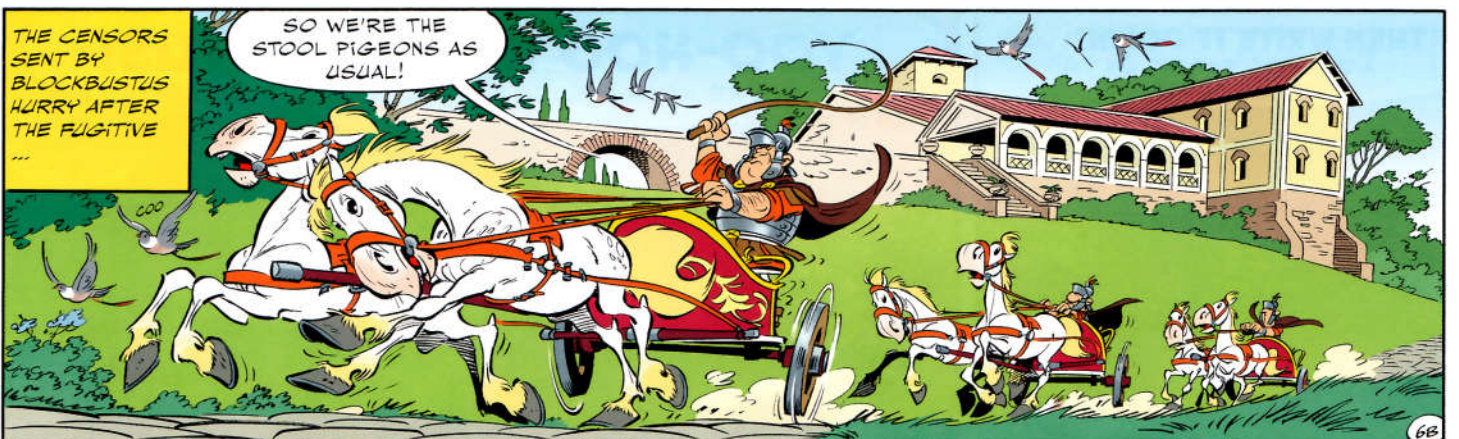
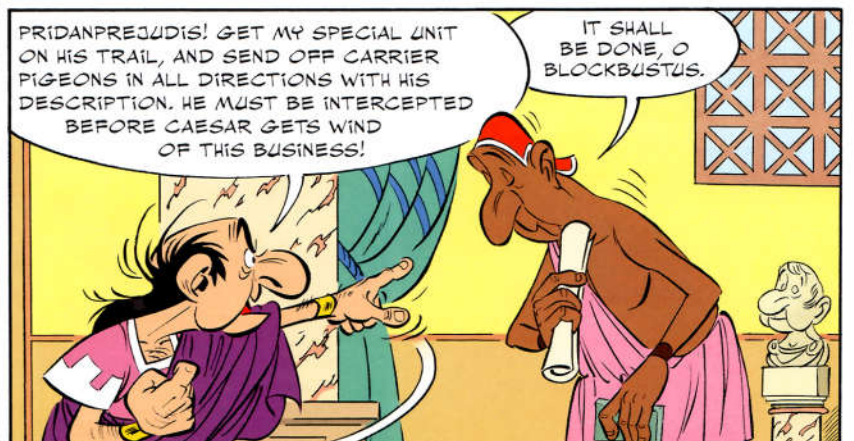
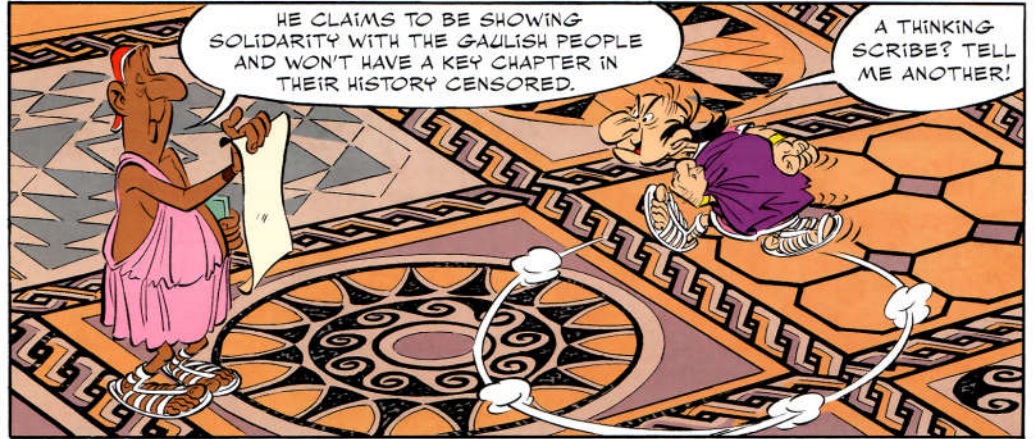


SOME TIME LATER,
IN PEACEFUL ARMORICA,
WHERE NEWS FROM ROME
IS SELDOM HEARD AND
DOES NOT SEEM HALF
AS INTERESTING ...



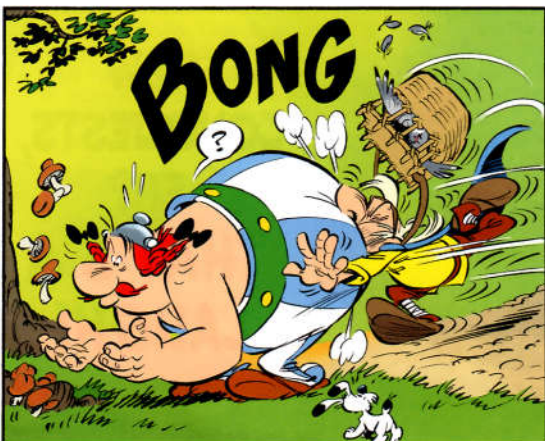
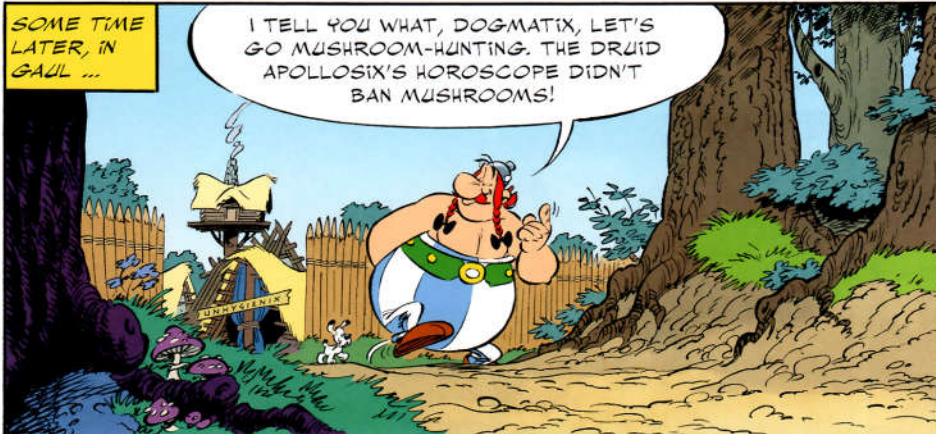






SOME TIME
LATER, IN
GAUL ...

I TELL YOU WHAT, DOGMATIX, LET'S
GO MUSHROOM-HUNTING. THE DRUID
APOLLOSIX'S HOROSCOPE DIDN'T
BAN MUSHROOMS!



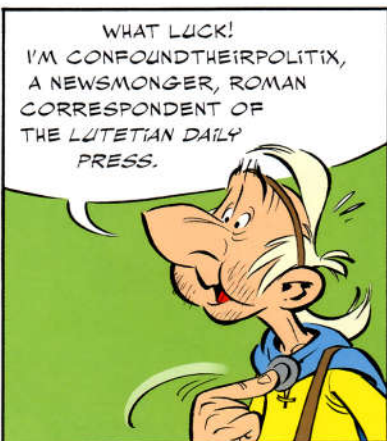
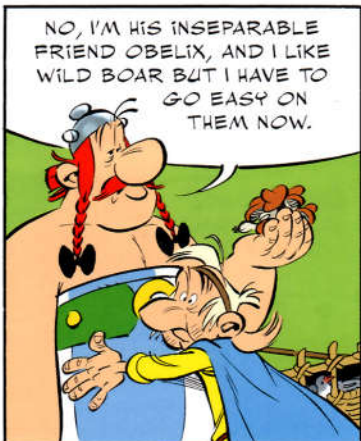
ARE YOU ONE OF THE INDOMITABLE
GAULS? PLEASE HELP ME!
THESE ROMANS
WANT TO
SILENCE ME!

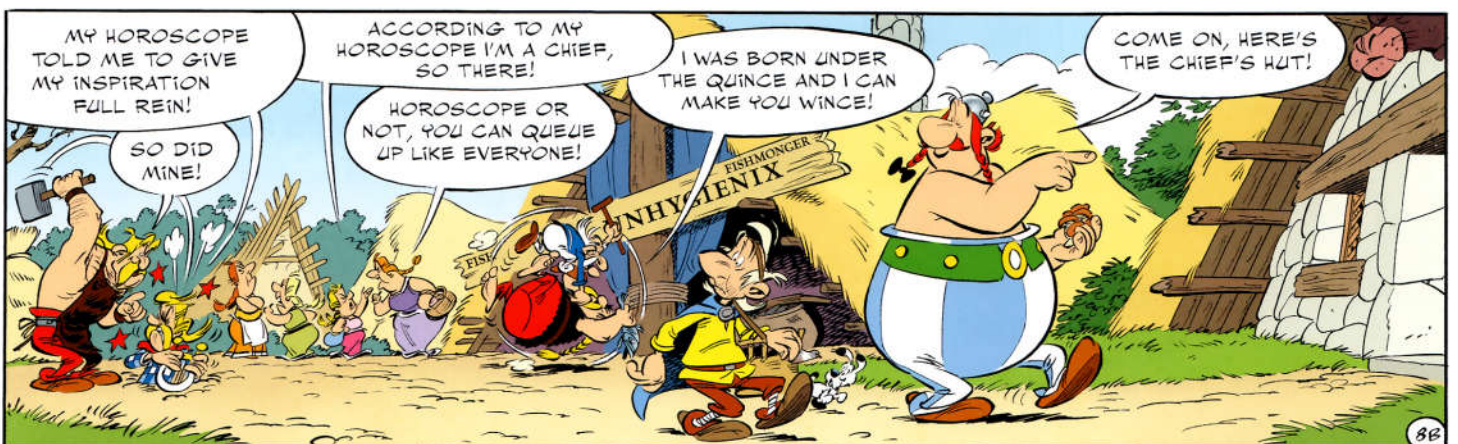
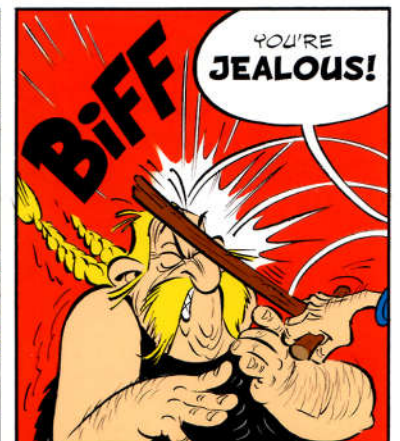
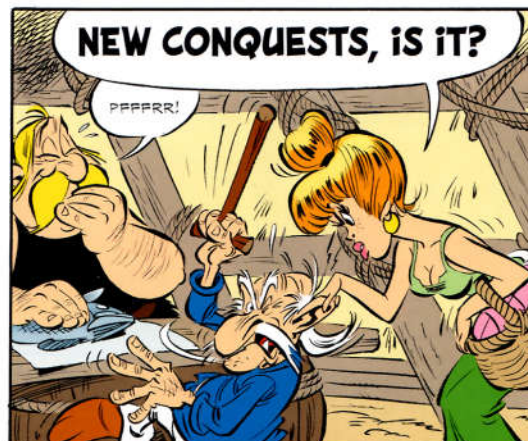
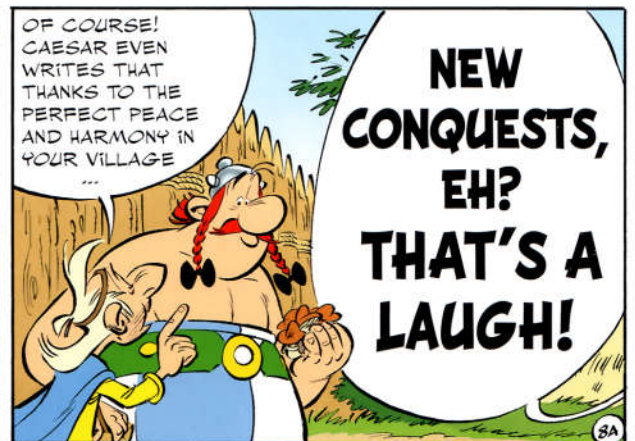
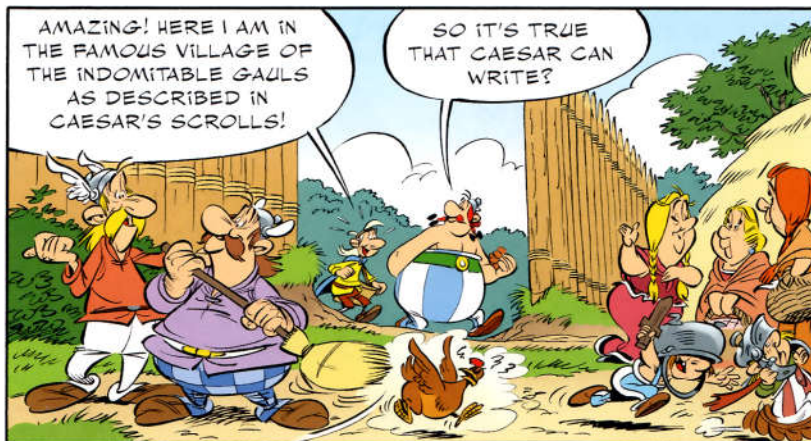
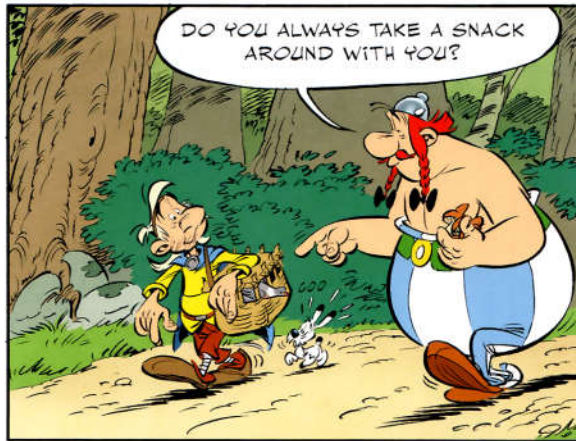
STOP! DID YOU
HEAR THAT? AN
INDOMITABLE
GAUL!

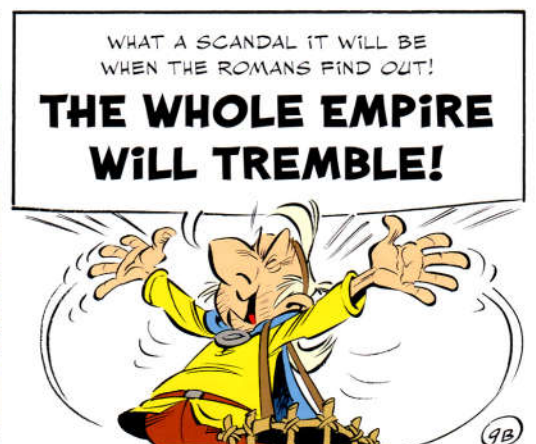
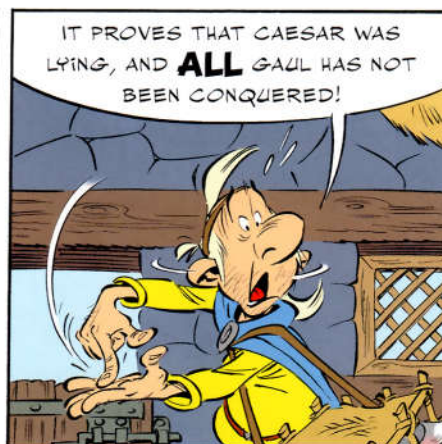
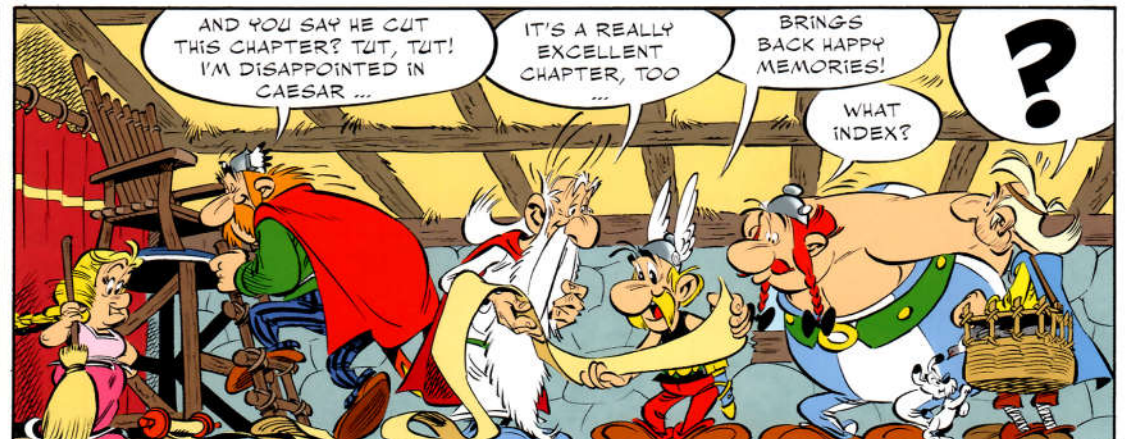
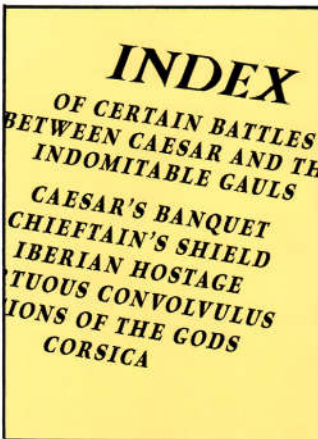
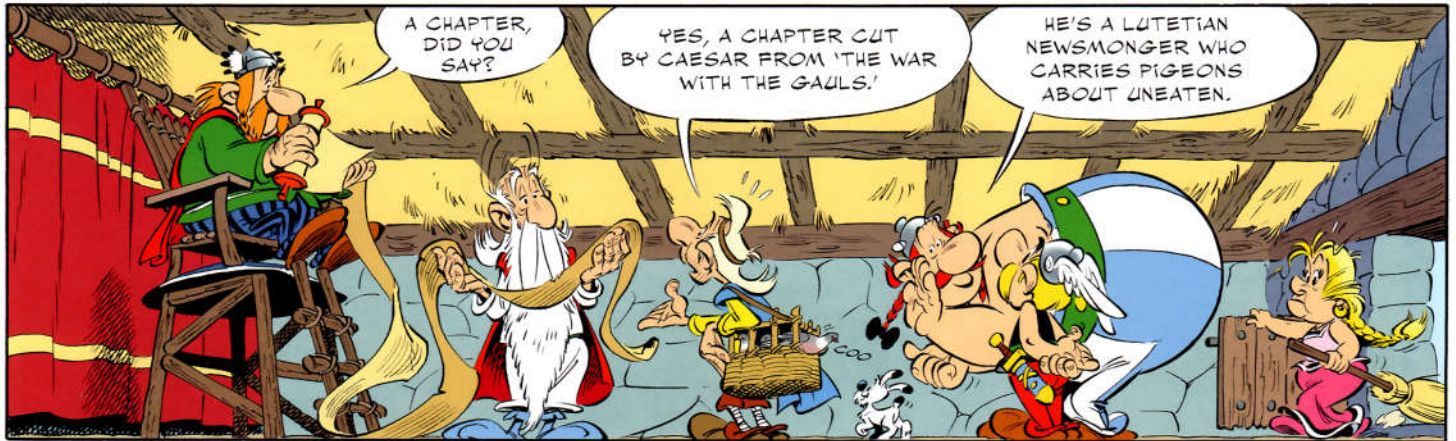
ABOUT
TURN,
FAST!

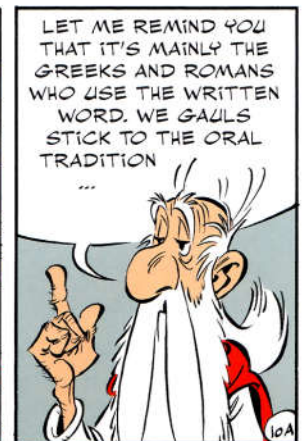
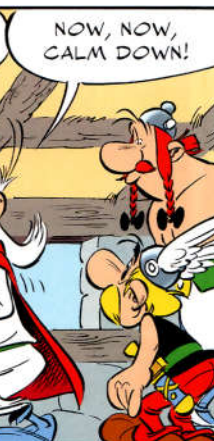
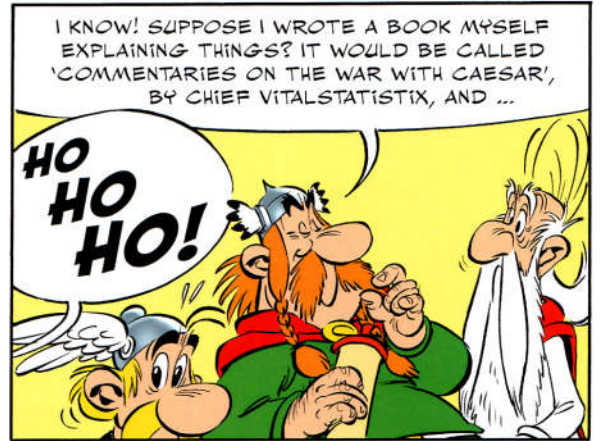
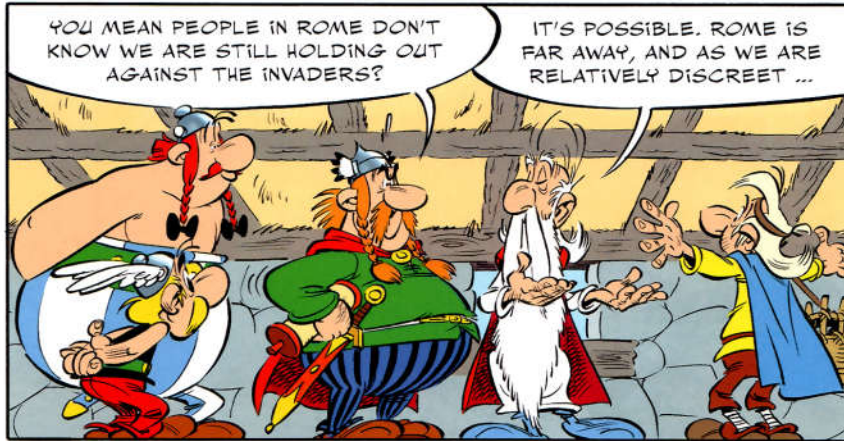


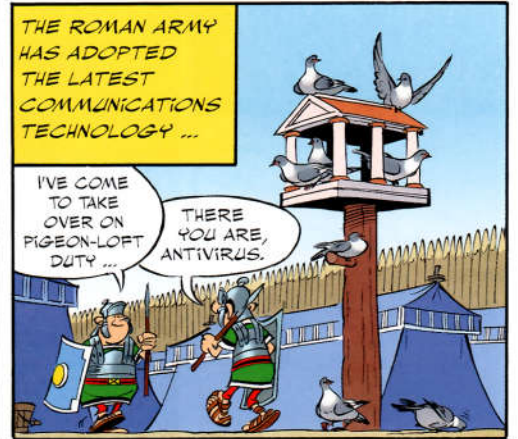
THEY ALL
SAY THAT.











THE TIME HAS COME TO SAY A LITTLE ABOUT THIS MODERN METHOD OF COMMUNICATION ...



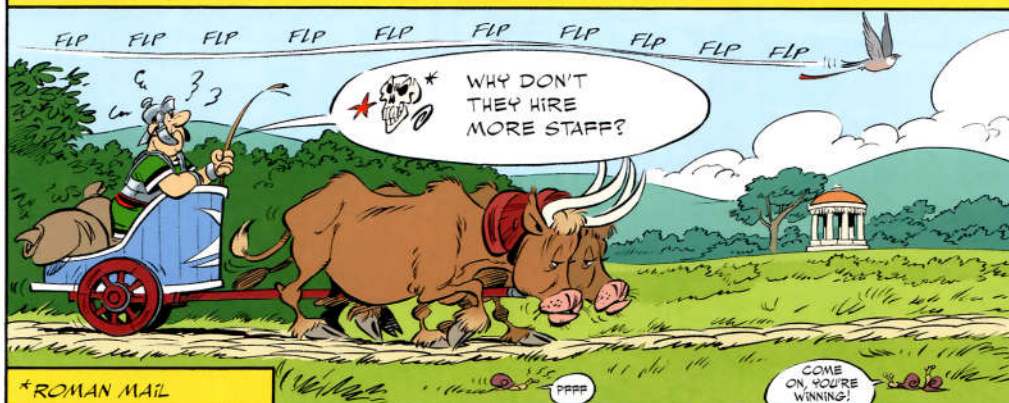
THE CARRIER PIGEON REACHES A STAGING POINT ...



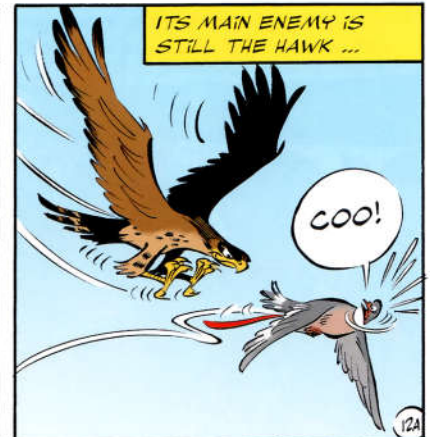
... WHERE ITS MESSAGE IS TAKEN OVER BY ANOTHER PIGEON ...



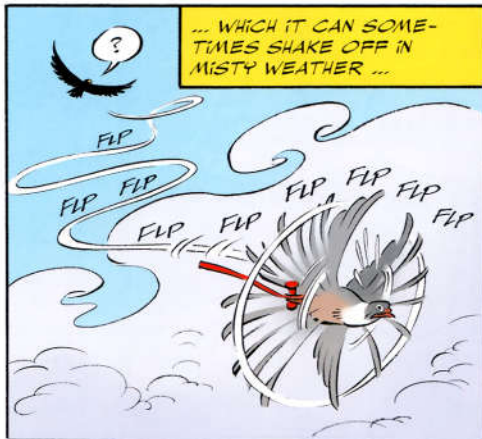
... THIS VERY RELIABLE SYSTEM IS REPLACING THE MUCH SLOWER 'CURSUS PUBLICUS'*



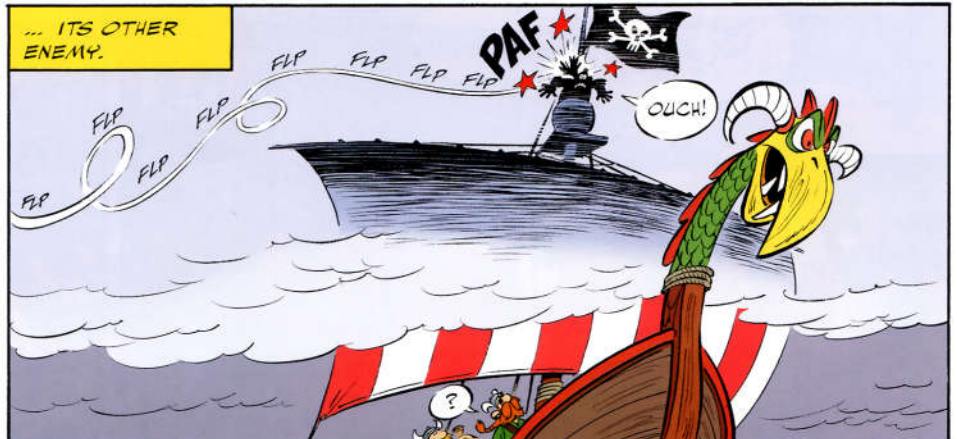
ITS MAIN ENEMY IS STILL THE HAWK ...



... WHICH IT CAN SOMETIMES SHAKE OFF IN MISTY WEATHER ...



... ITS OTHER ENEMY.



CAP'N, A PIGEON MESSAGE JUST CAUGHT MY EYE!



WHAT DOES IT SAY?

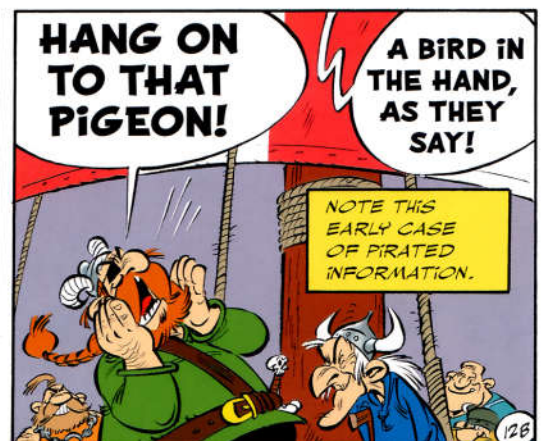
DUNNO, CAP'N! I CAN'T READ!

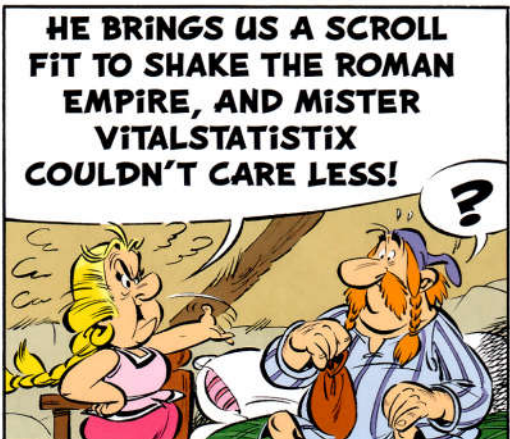
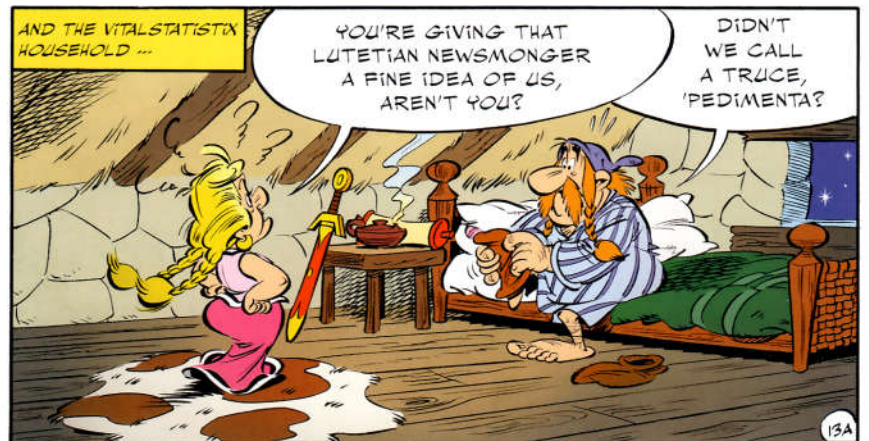
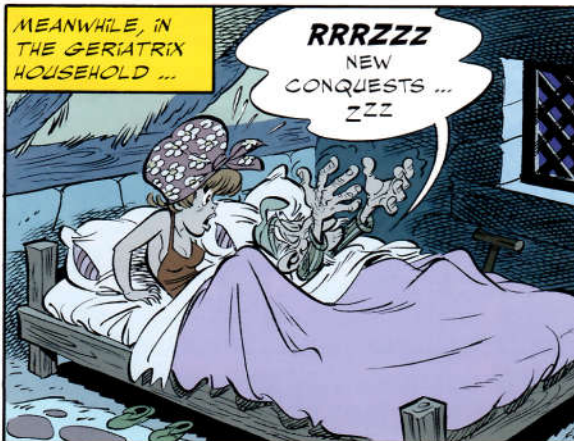
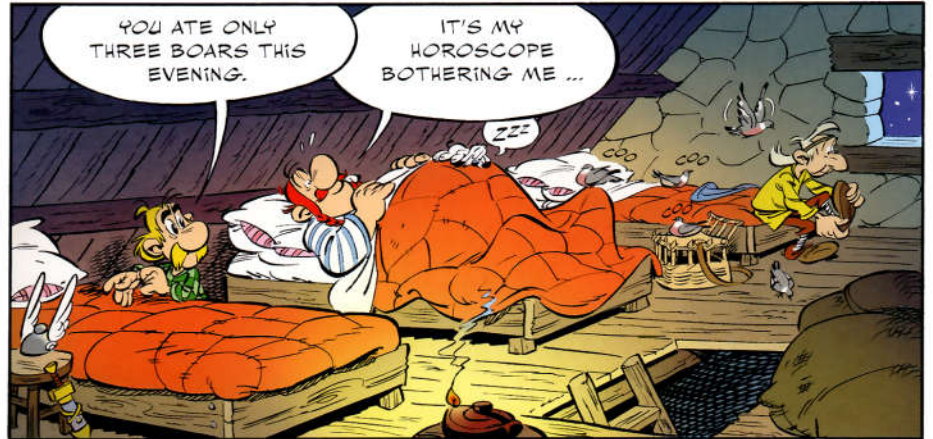
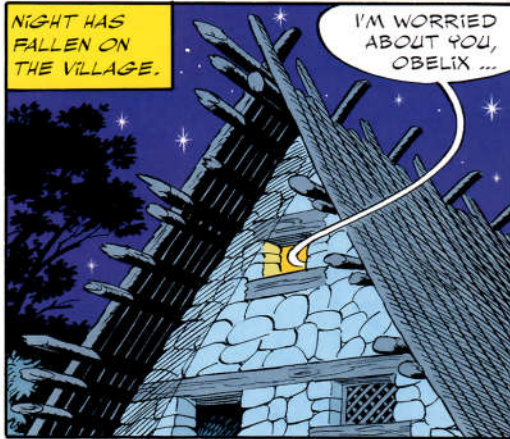


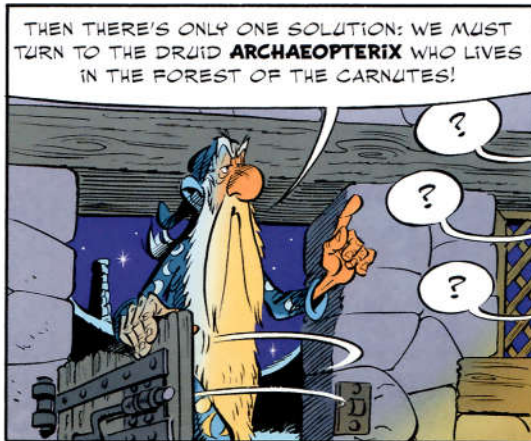
HANG ON TO THAT PIGEON!

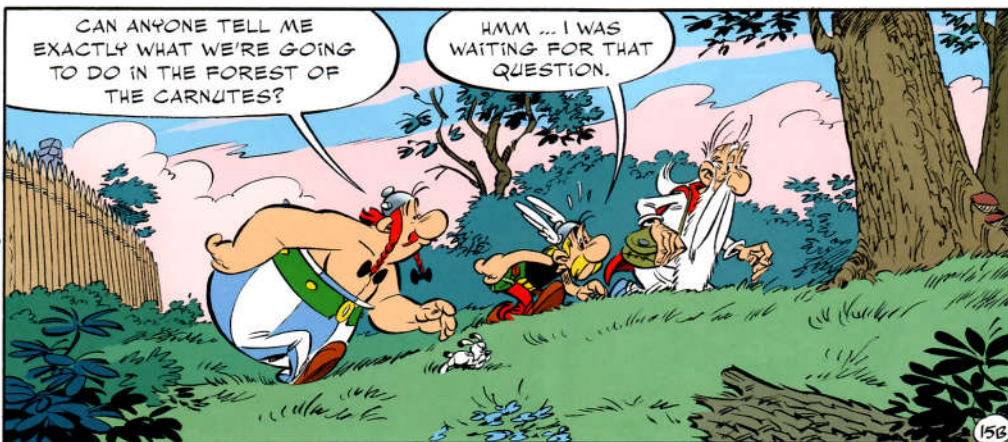
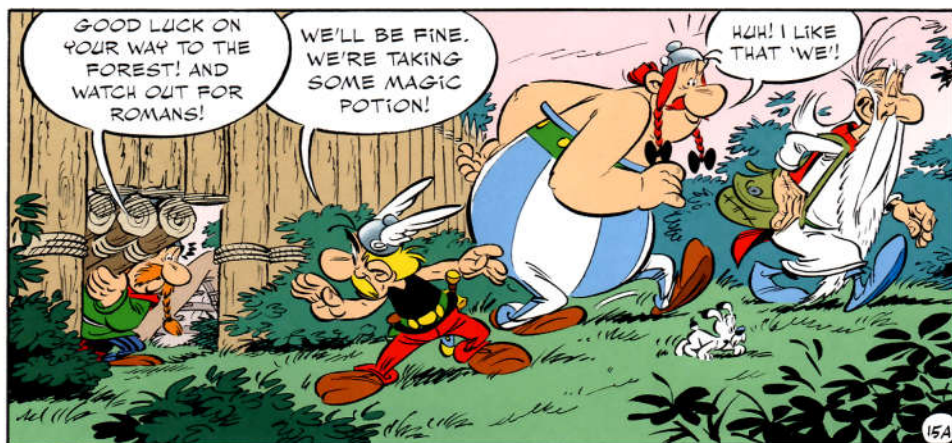
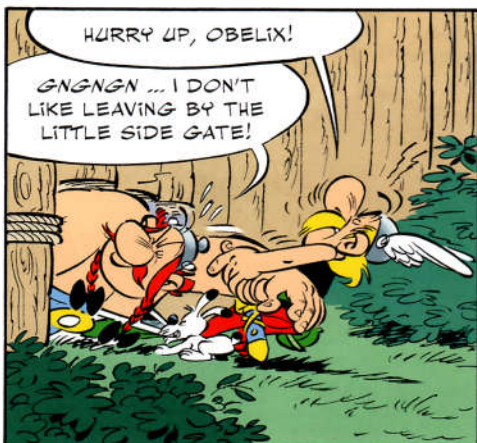
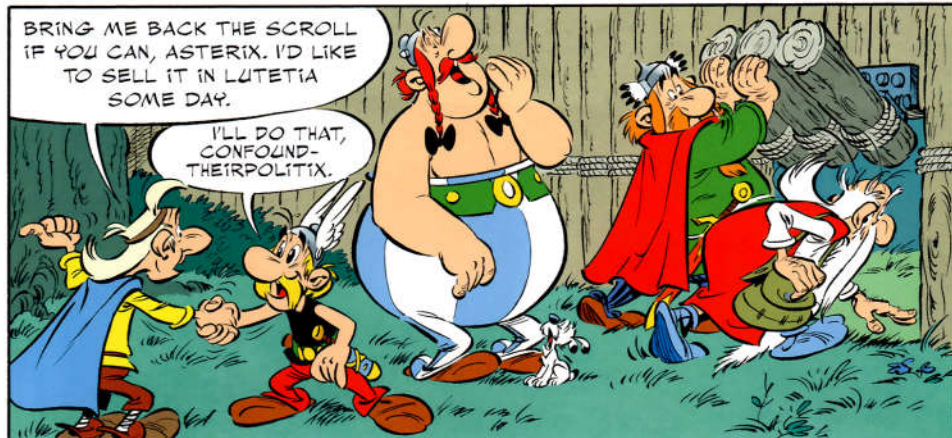
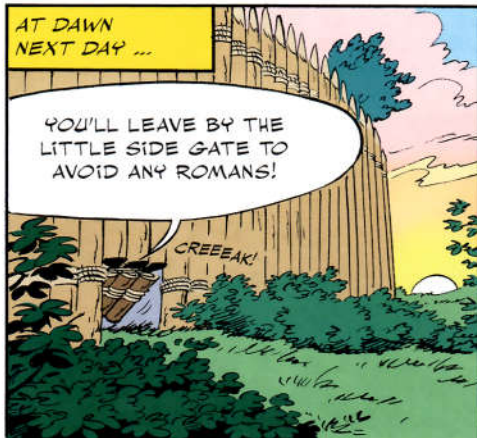
A BIRD IN THE HAND, AS THEY SAY!

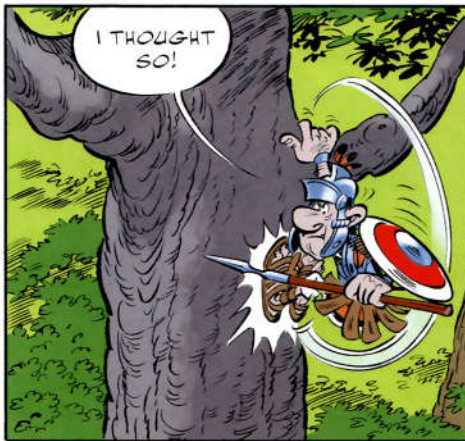
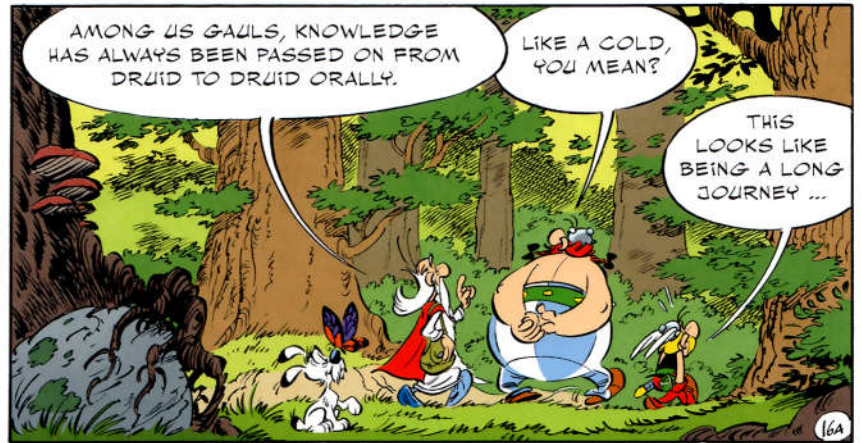
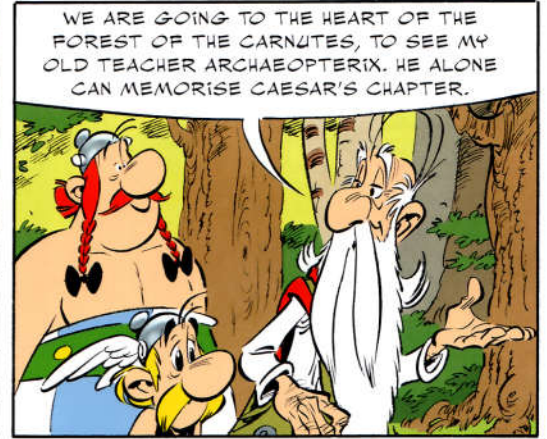
NOTE THIS EARLY CASE OF PIRATED INFORMATION.

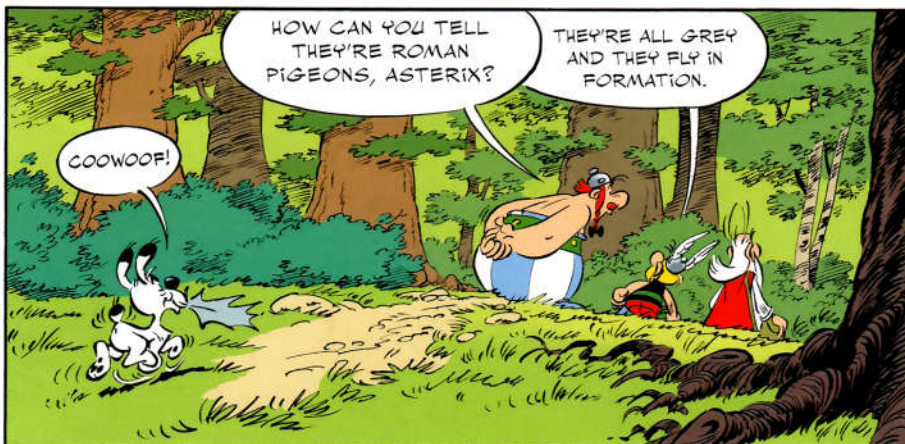
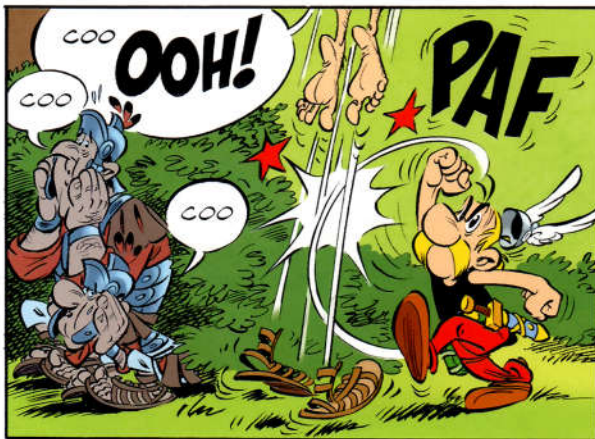
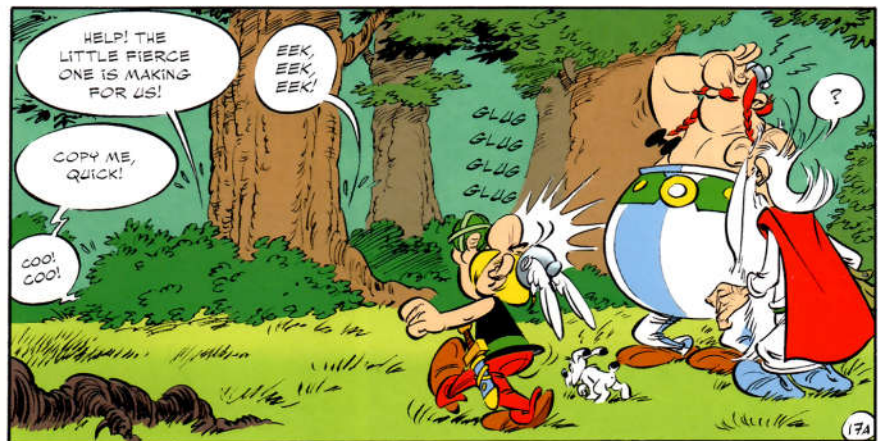
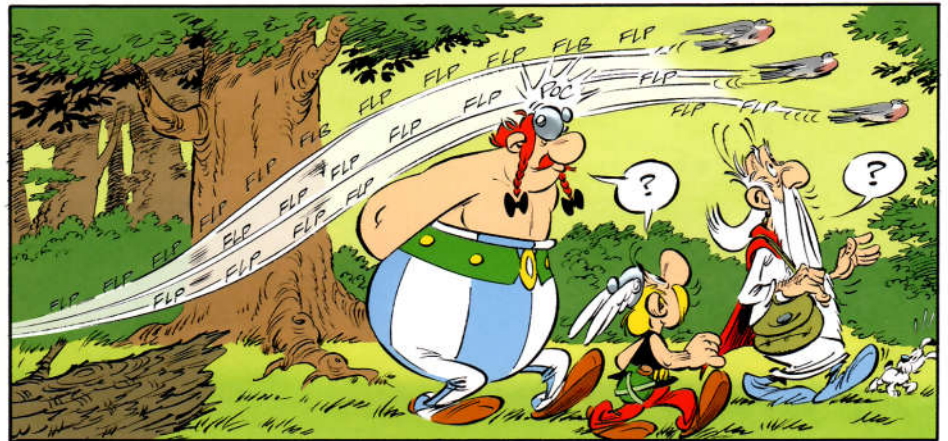


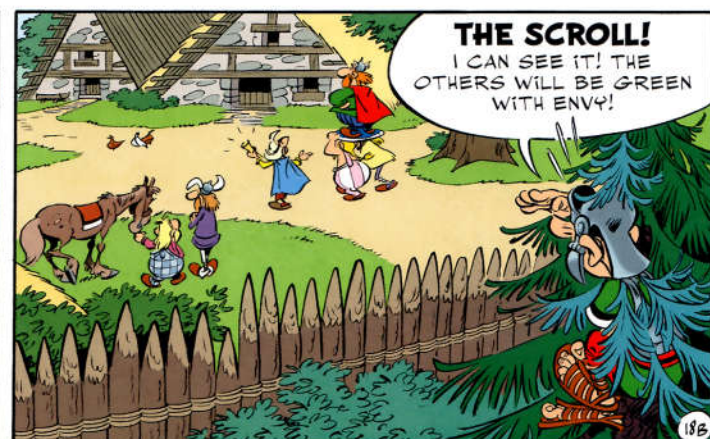
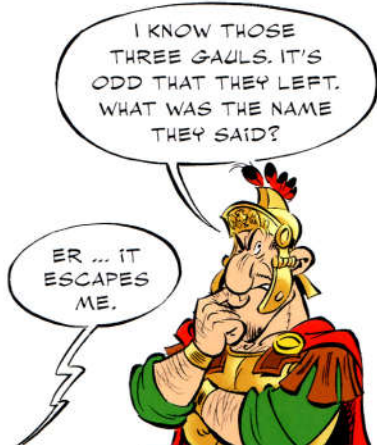


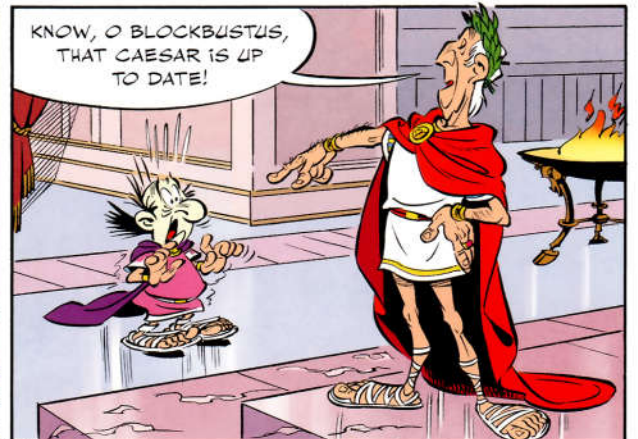
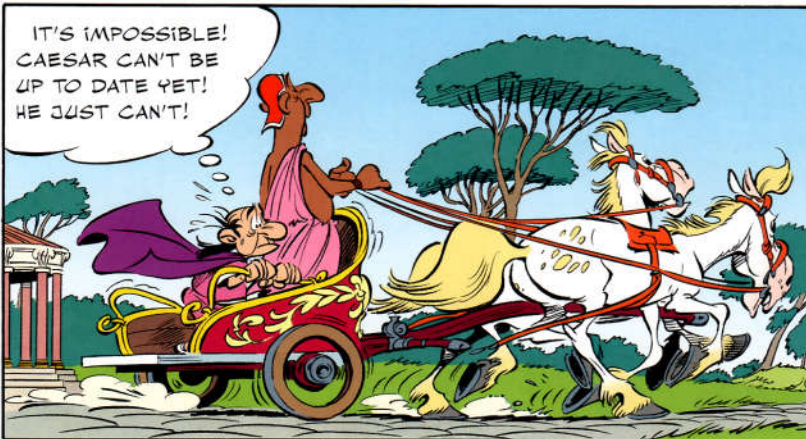
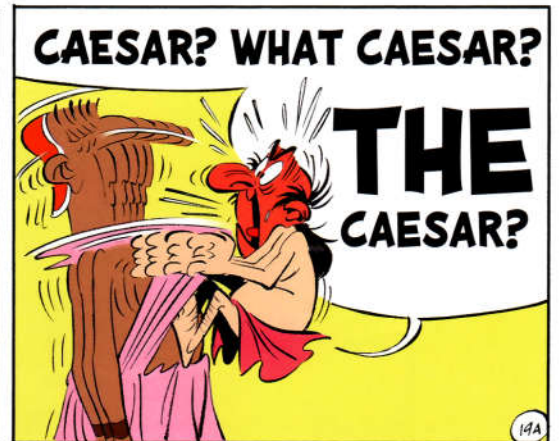
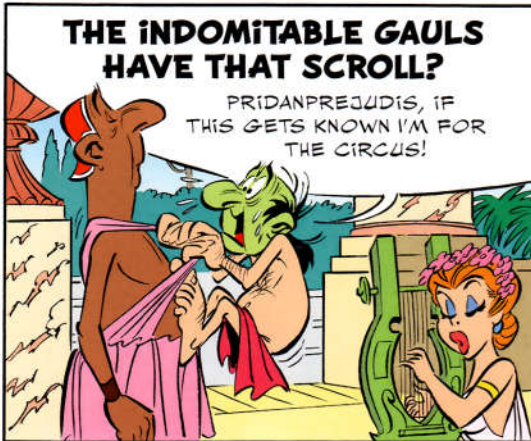
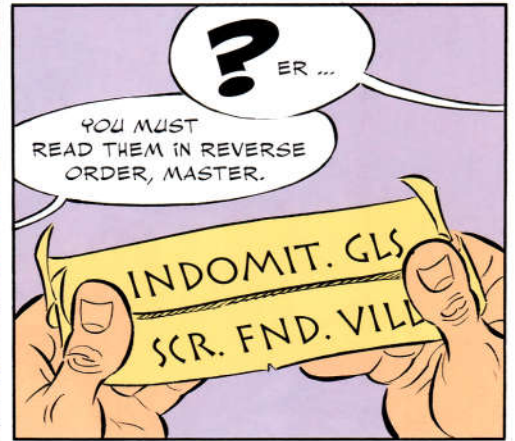


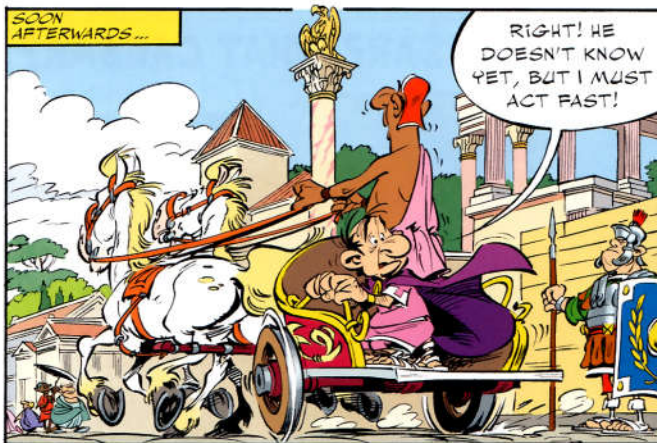
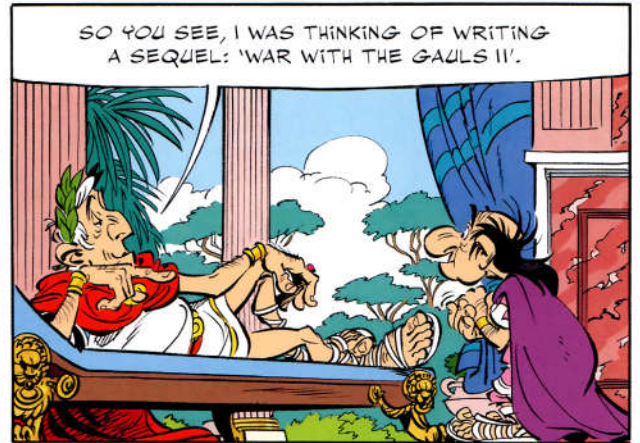
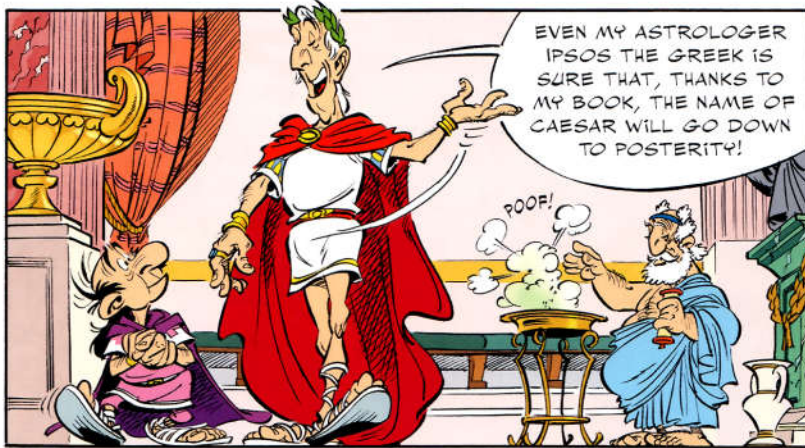


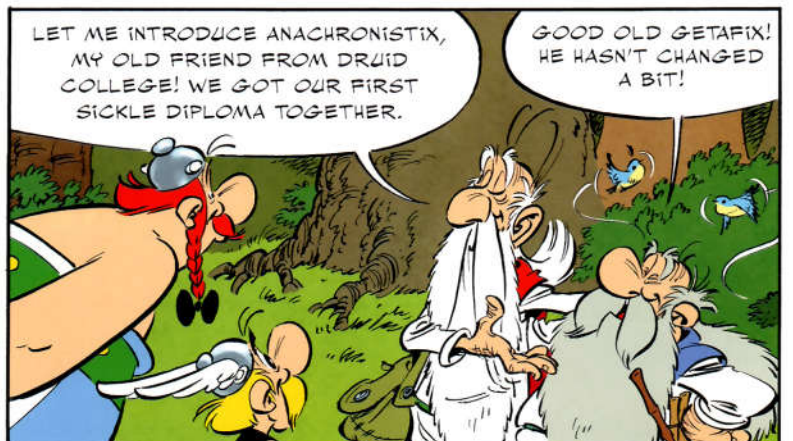
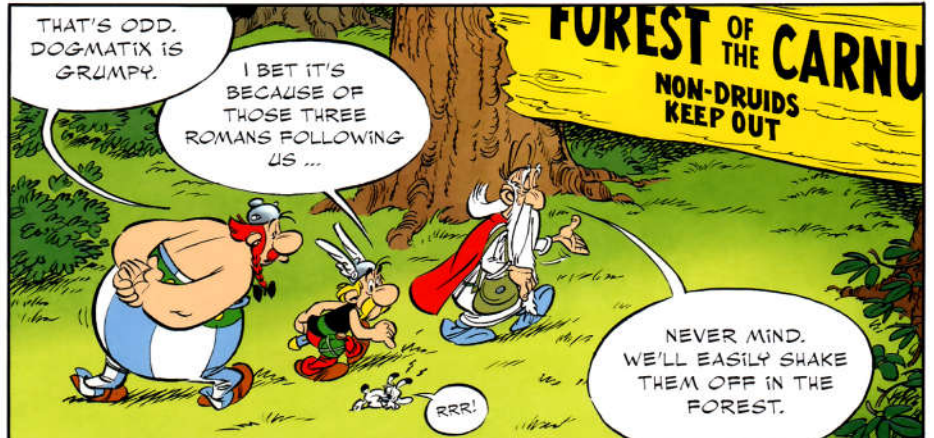
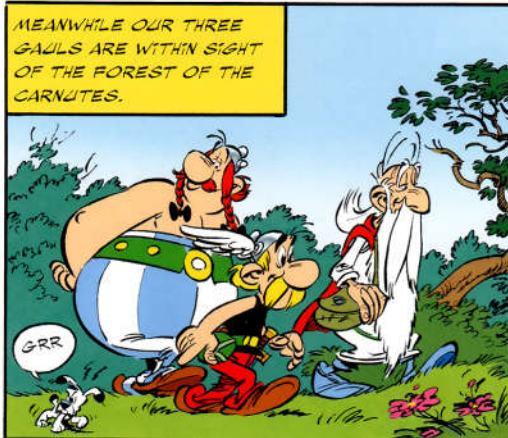


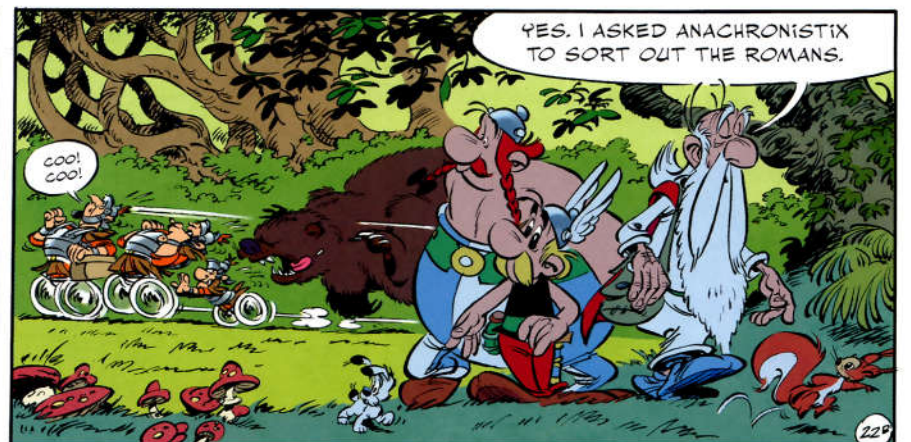
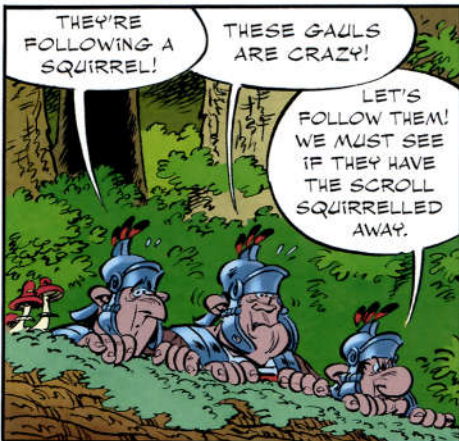
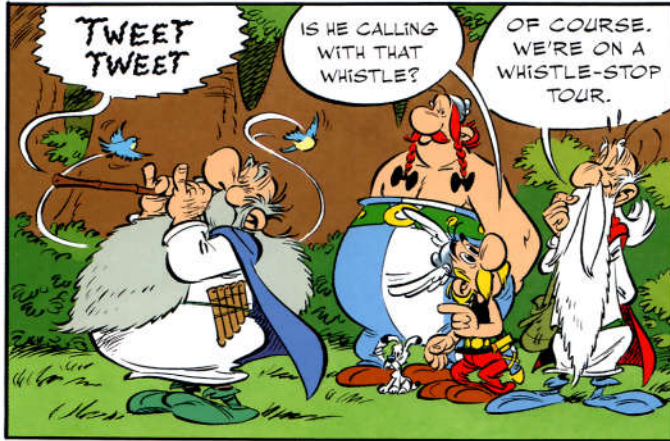


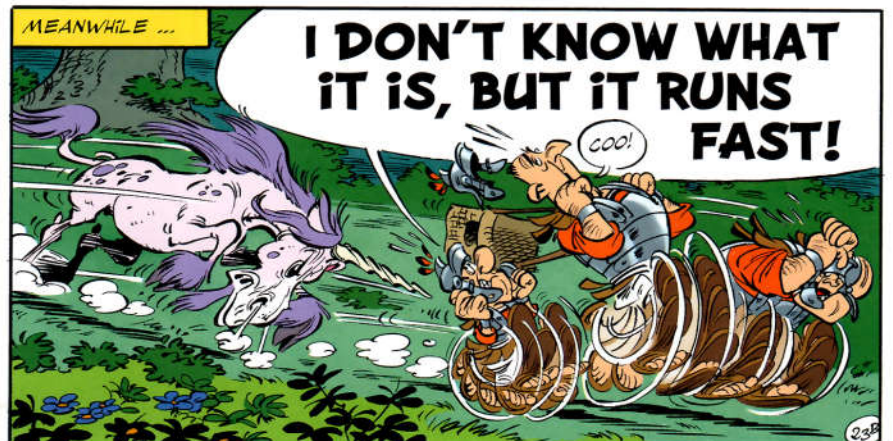
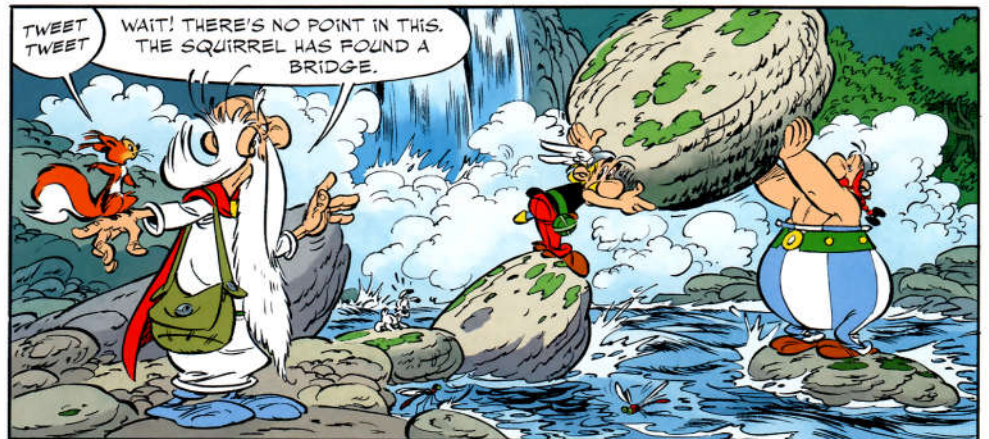
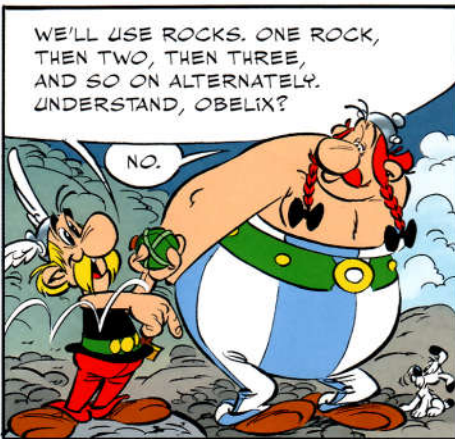
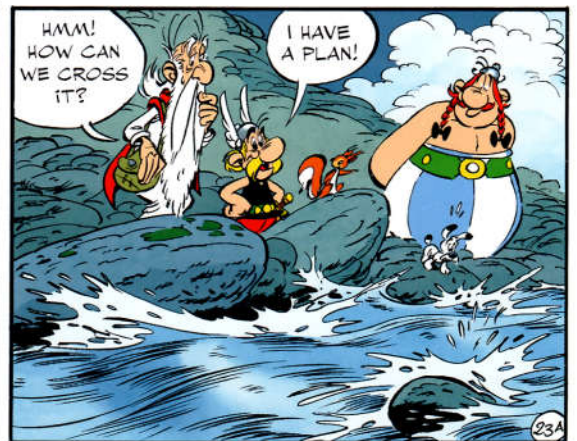
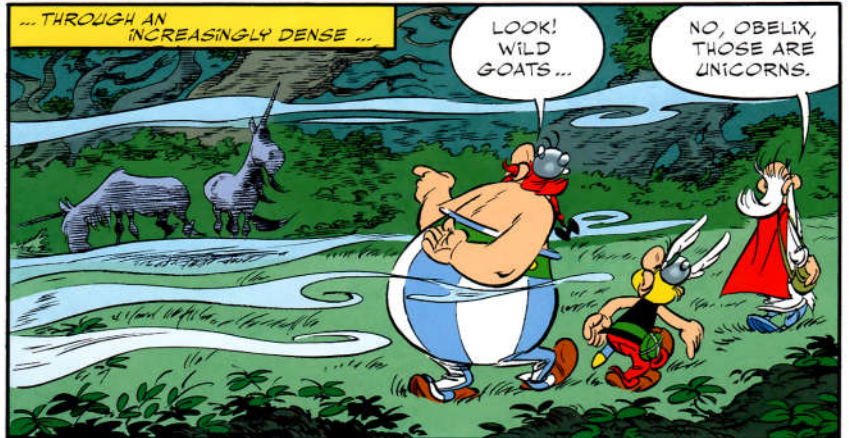


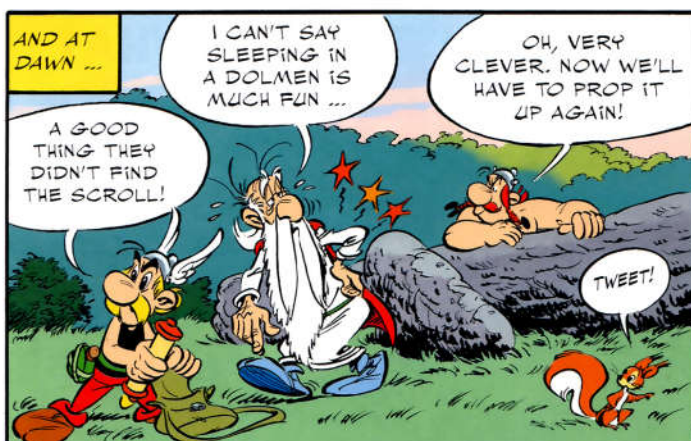
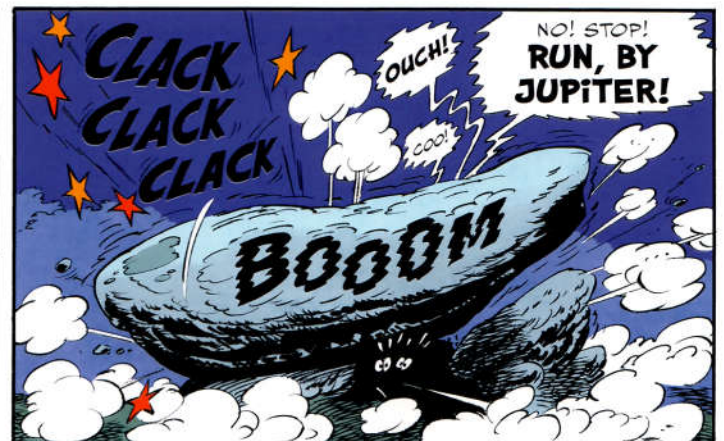
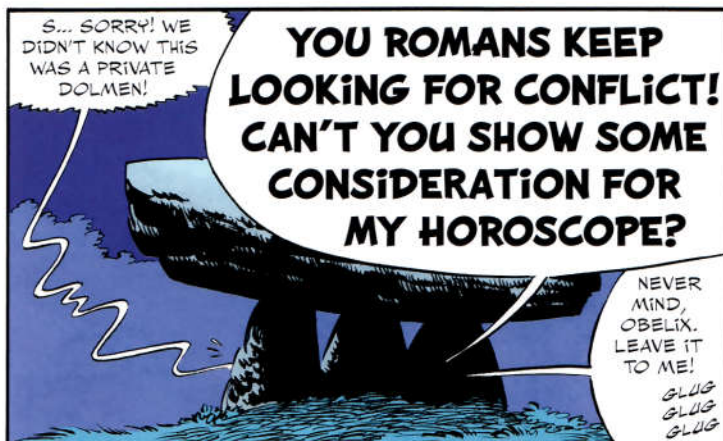
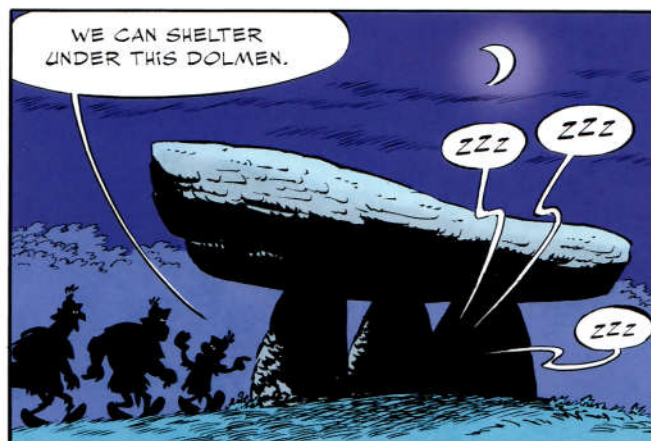


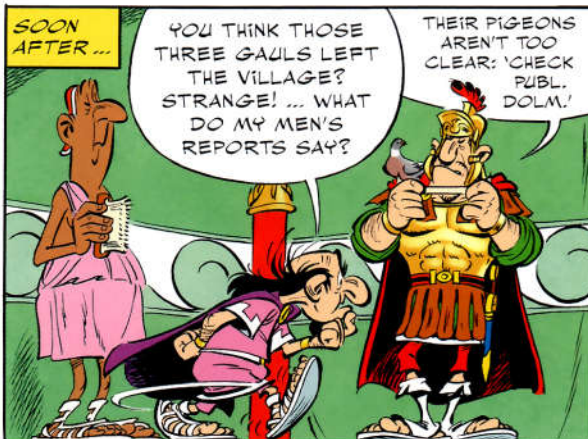
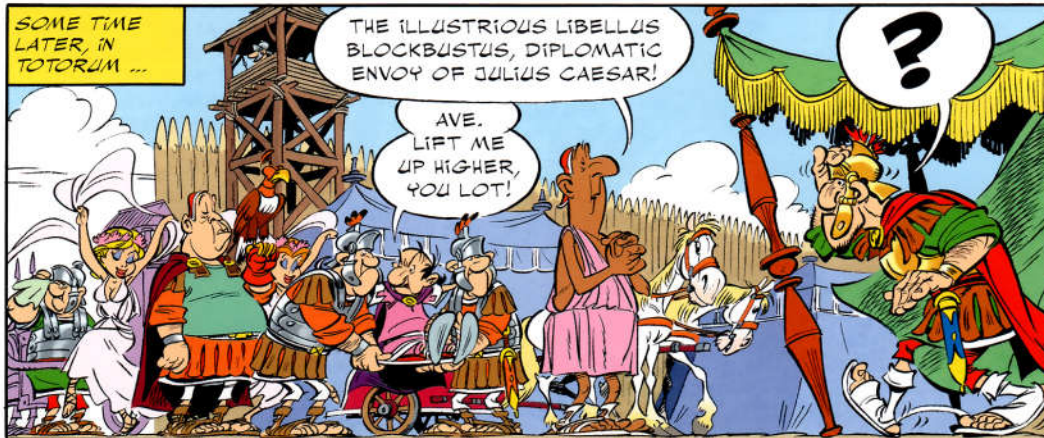


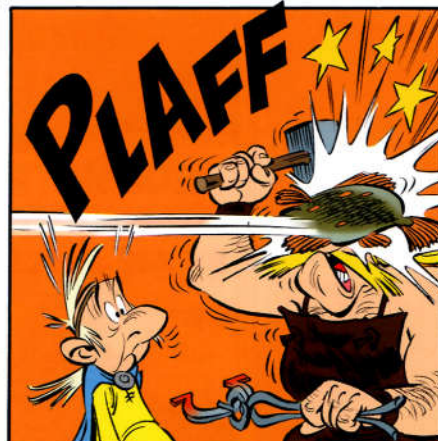
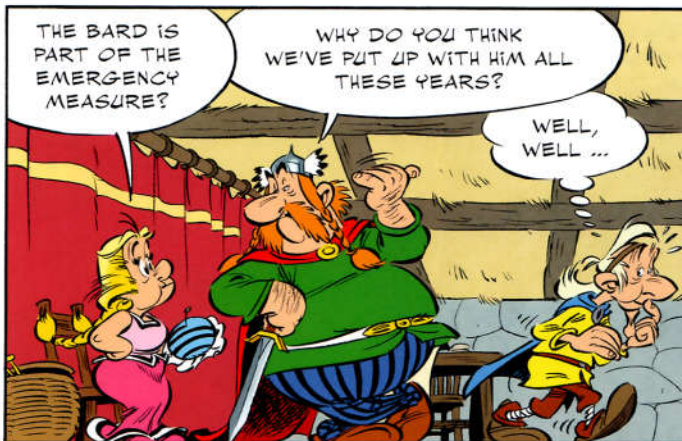
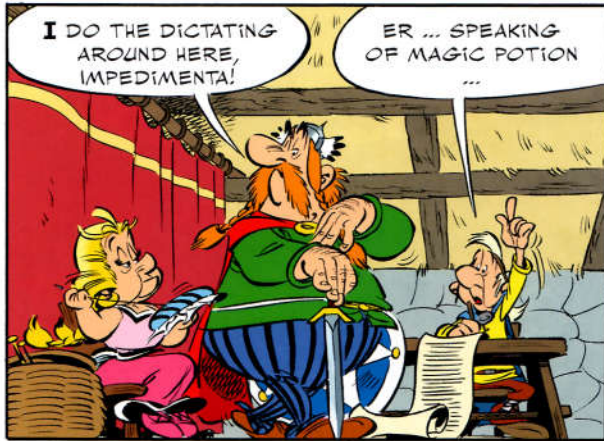






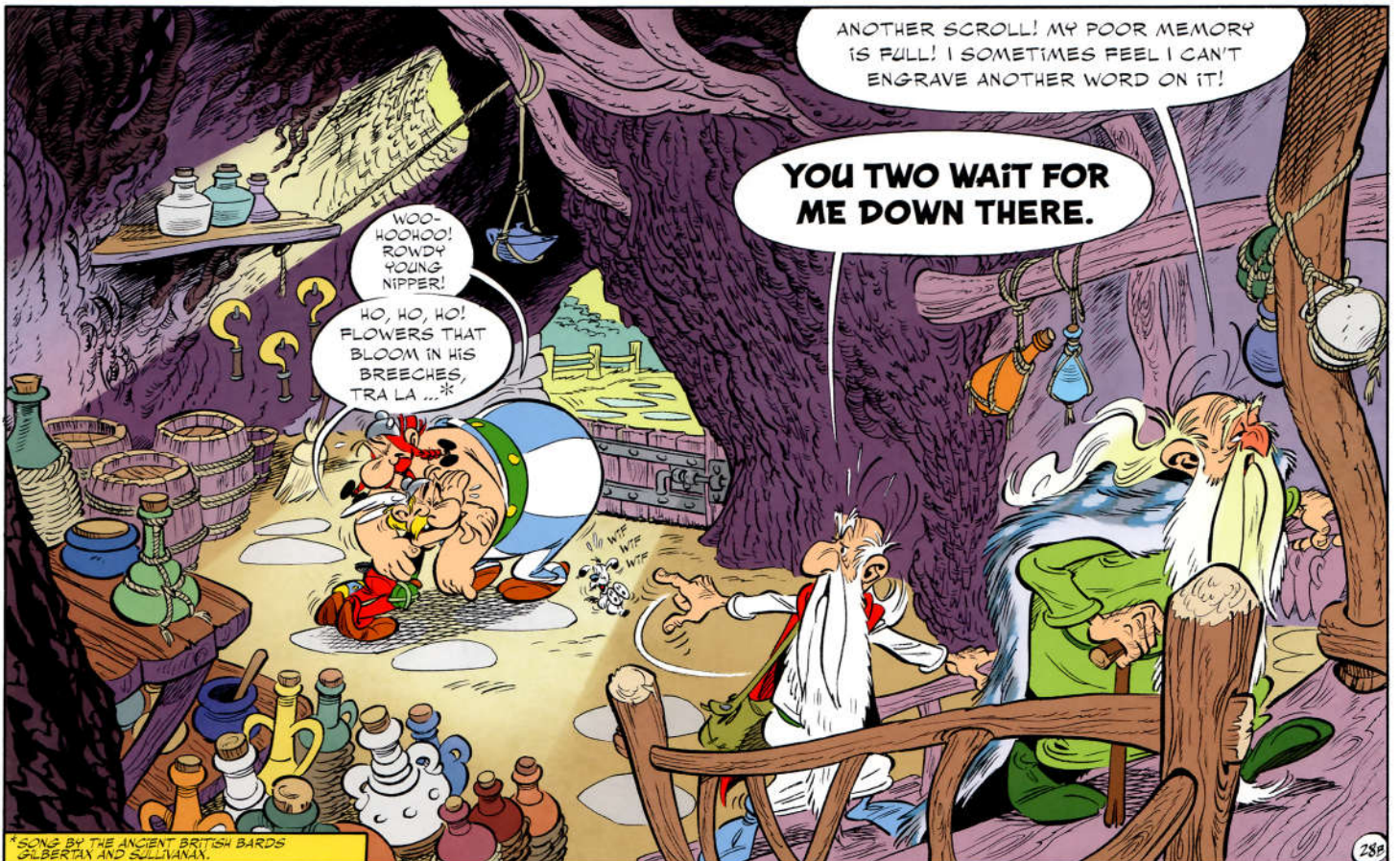
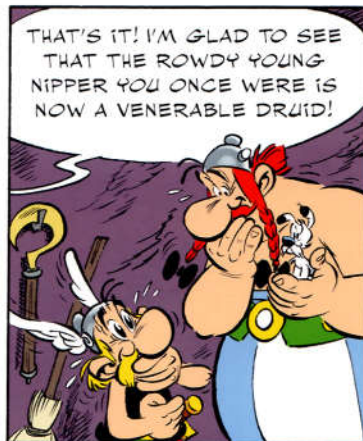
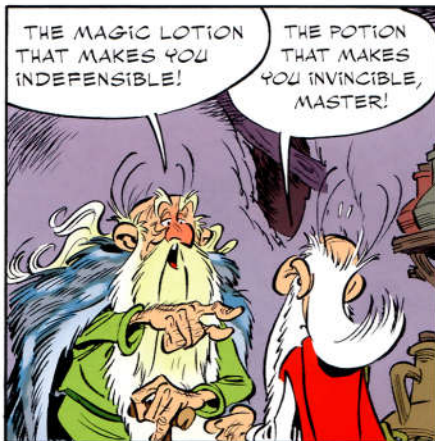
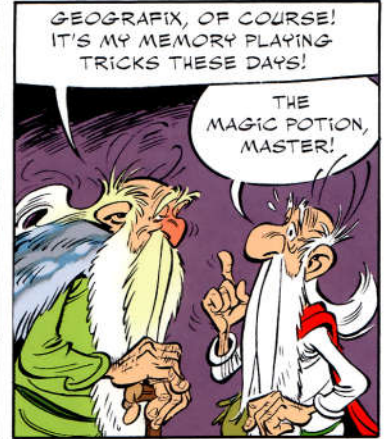
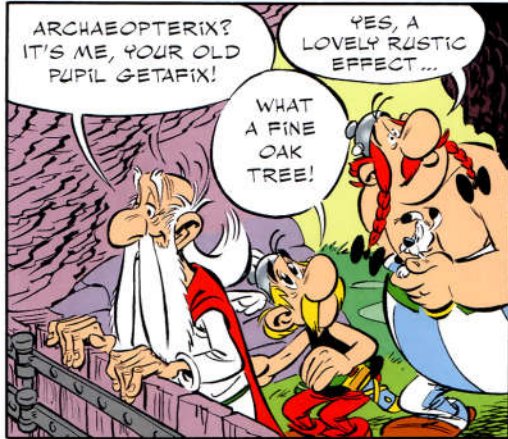


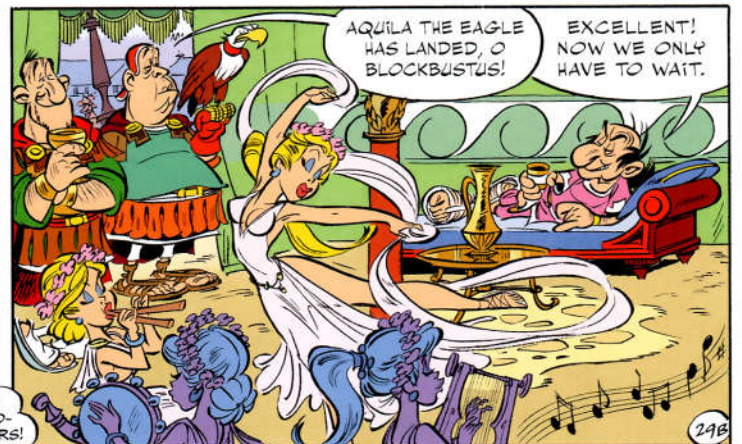
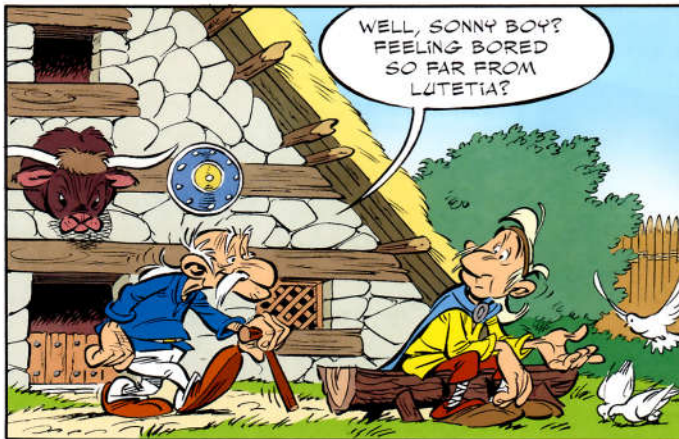
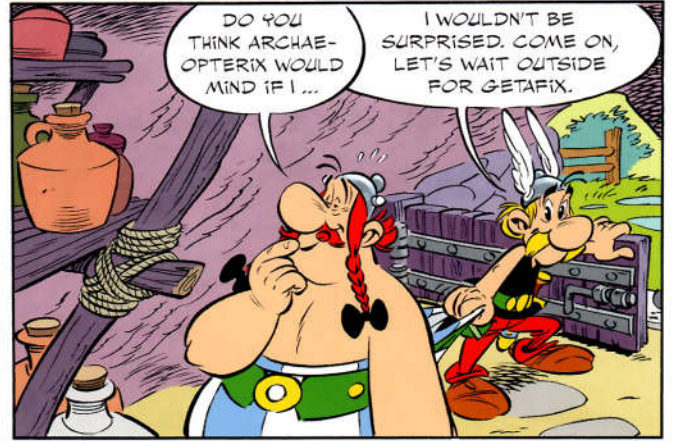
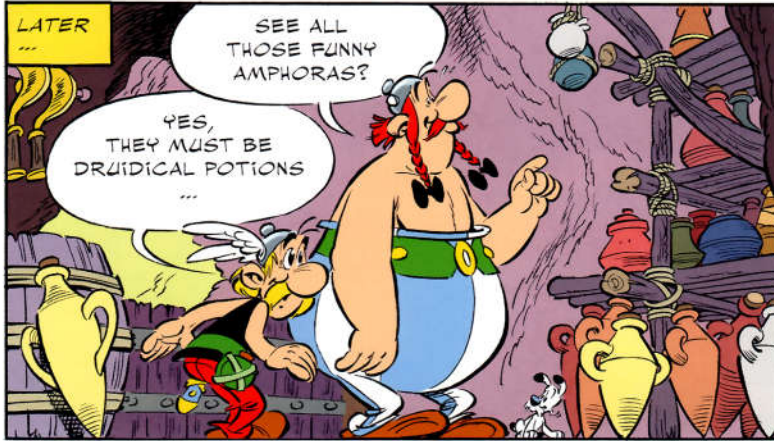


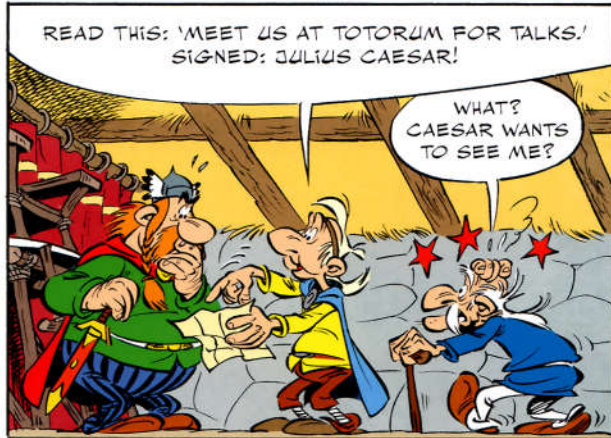


SOON
AFTERWARDS...









READ THIS: 'MEET US AT TOTORUM FOR TALKS.'
SIGNED: JULIUS CAESAR!

WHAT?
CAESAR WANTS
TO SEE ME?

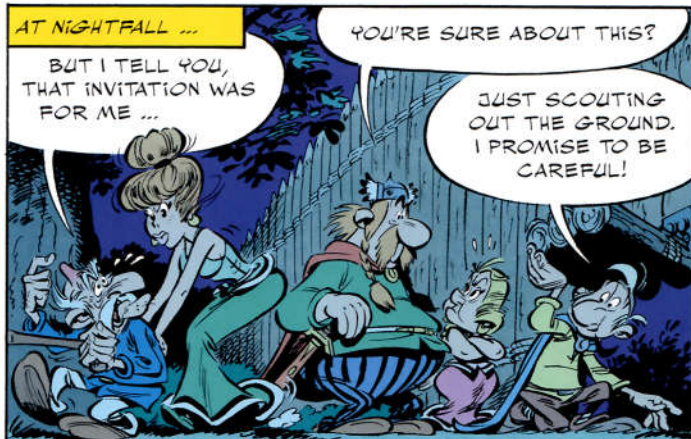


DON'T GO!
IT'S A TRAP!

I DON'T
THINK SO.
CAESAR IS
AFRAID THAT NEWS
OF THE MISSING
SCROLL MAY
SPREAD!



JUST THINK: AN INTERVIEW
WITH JULIUS CAESAR IN
PERSON! WHAT AN
ENORMOUS
SCOOP!



AT NIGHTFALL ...

BUT I TELL YOU,
THAT INVITATION WAS
FOR ME ...

YOU'RE SURE ABOUT THIS?

JUST SCOUTING
OUT THE GROUND.
I PROMISE TO BE
CAREFUL!



AND I SUPPOSE IT DIDN'T
OCCUR TO YOU TO GIVE
HIM A LITTLE MAGIC
POTION?

?



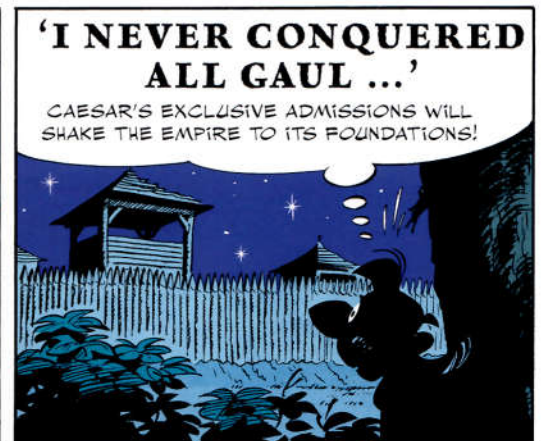
BUT IMPEDIMENTA, YOU KNOW
OUR STOCK OF POTION IS FOR
VILLAGERS ONLY ...

**BLAH
BLAH BLAH!**



'HOW I MET CAESAR'

BY OUR GREAT REPORTER CONFOUNDTHEIRPOLITIX .



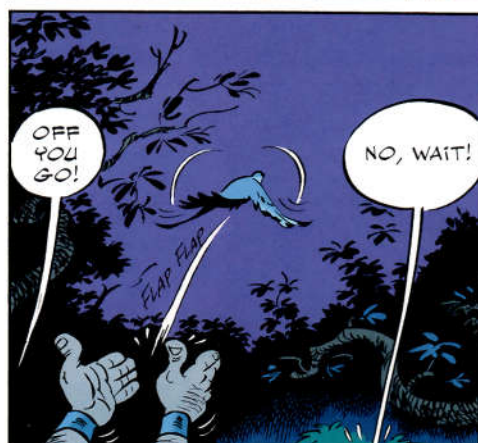
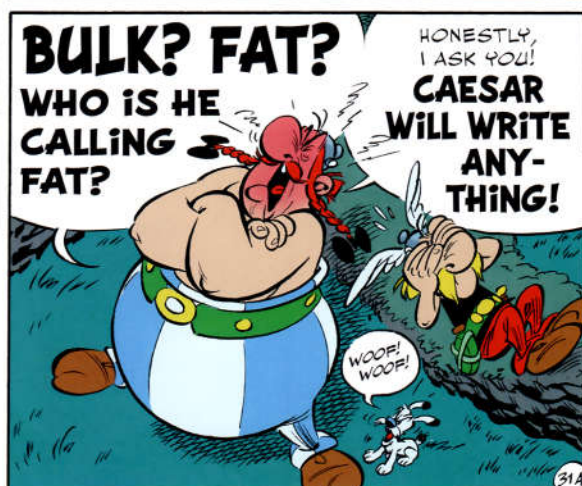
**'I NEVER CONQUERED
ALL GAUL ...'**

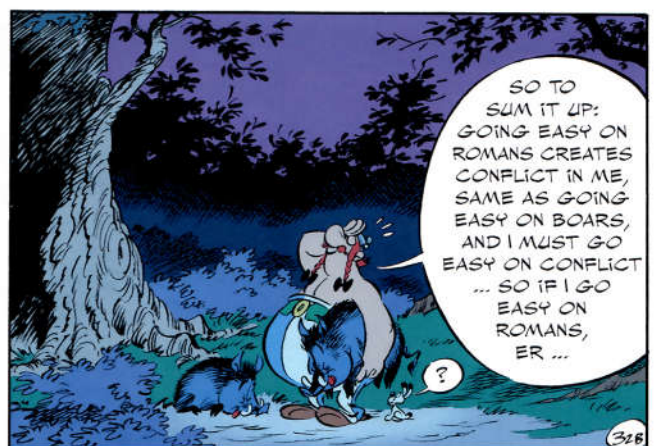
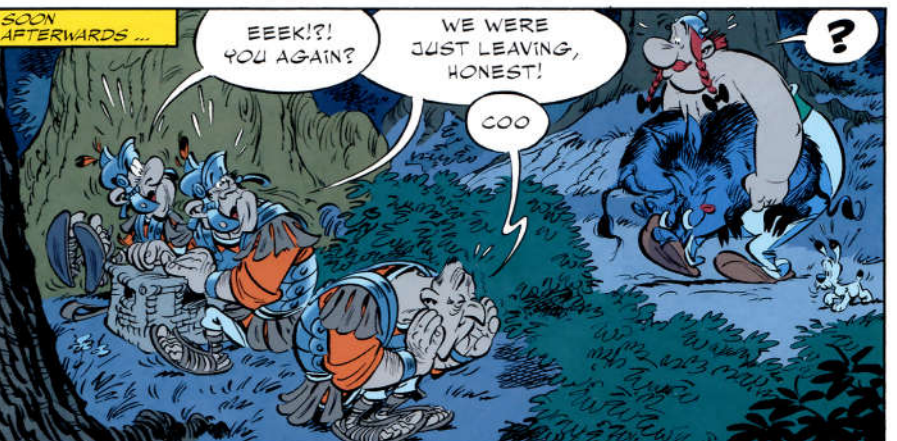
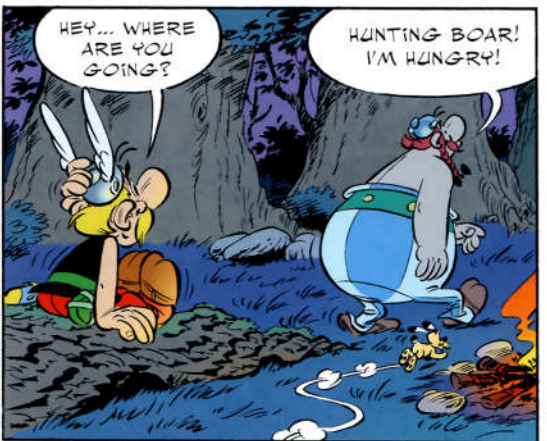
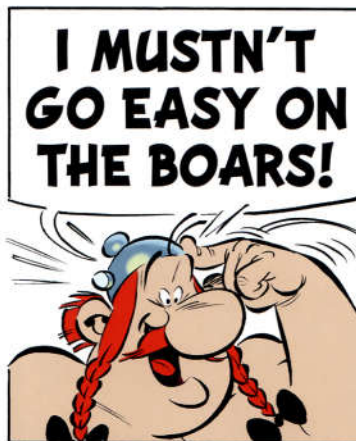
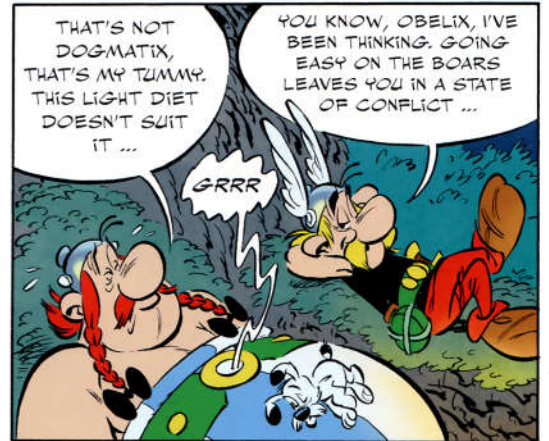
CAESAR'S EXCLUSIVE ADMISSIONS WILL
SHAKE THE EMPIRE TO ITS FOUNDATIONS!

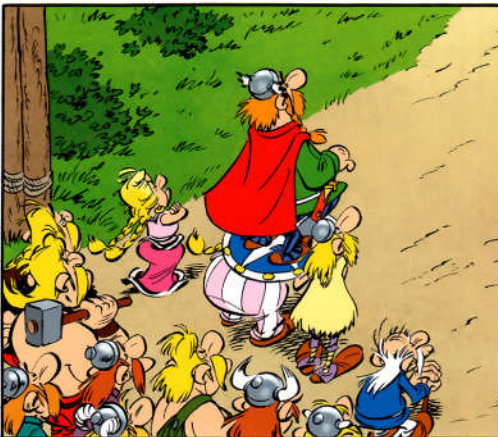


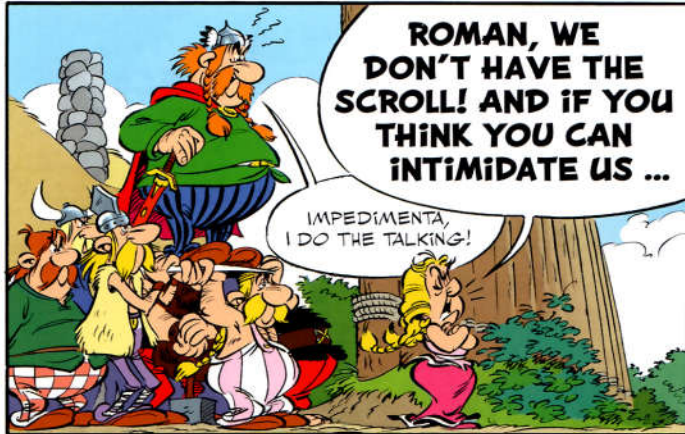
'THE ROMAN CAMP LOOKED DESERTED'

ALL THE EXCITING DETAILS OF A HIGH-RISK NEWS STORY ...







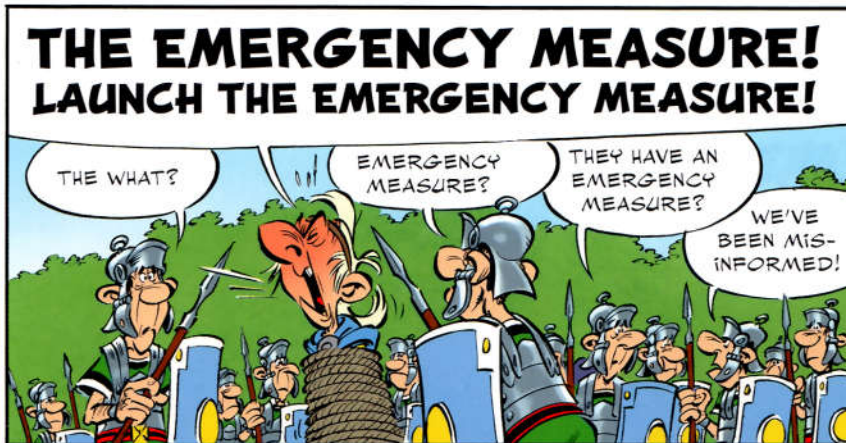


ROMAN, WE DON'T HAVE THE SCROLL! AND IF YOU THINK YOU CAN INTIMIDATE US ...

IMPEDIMENTA, I DO THE TALKING!



ROMAN, WE DON'T HAVE THE SCROLL! AND IF YOU THINK YOU CAN INTIMIDATE US ...



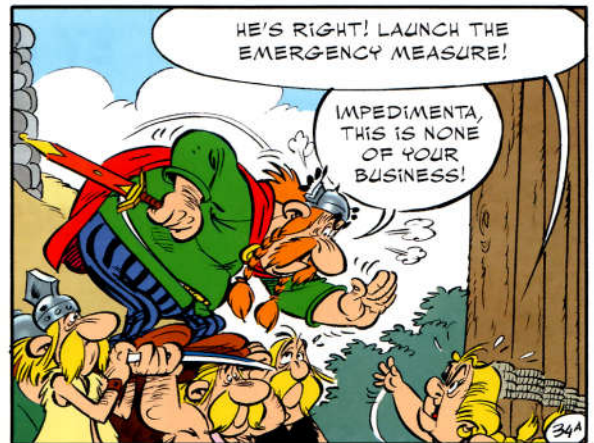
**THE EMERGENCY MEASURE!
LAUNCH THE EMERGENCY MEASURE!**

THE WHAT?

EMERGENCY MEASURE?

THEY HAVE AN EMERGENCY MEASURE?

WE'VE BEEN MIS-INFORMED!



HE'S RIGHT! LAUNCH THE EMERGENCY MEASURE!

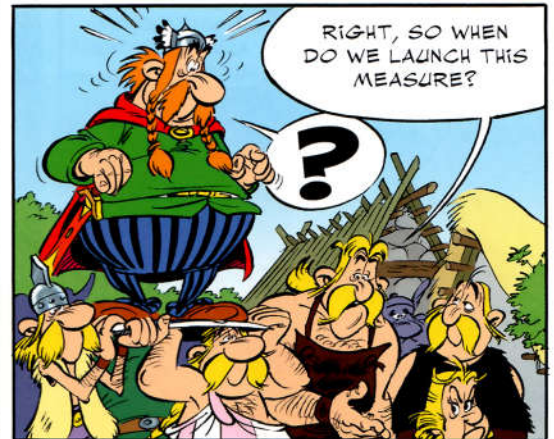
IMPEDIMENTA, THIS IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!



GAULS, THERE ARE LIMITS TO MY PATIENCE! THE MISSING SCROLL IN EXCHANGE FOR OUR HOSTAGE, AND HURRY UP!



DON'T LISTEN TO HIM! THIS IS ROLLING NEWS!

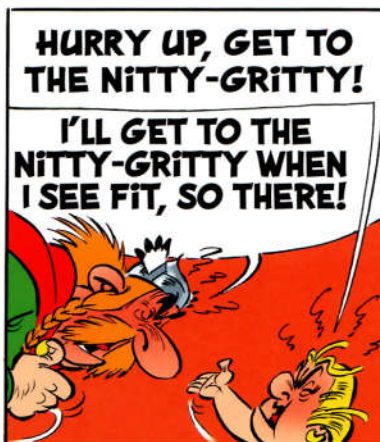


RIGHT, SO WHEN DO WE LAUNCH THIS MEASURE?

?



I DO THE LAUNCHING AROUND HERE, UNDERSTAND?



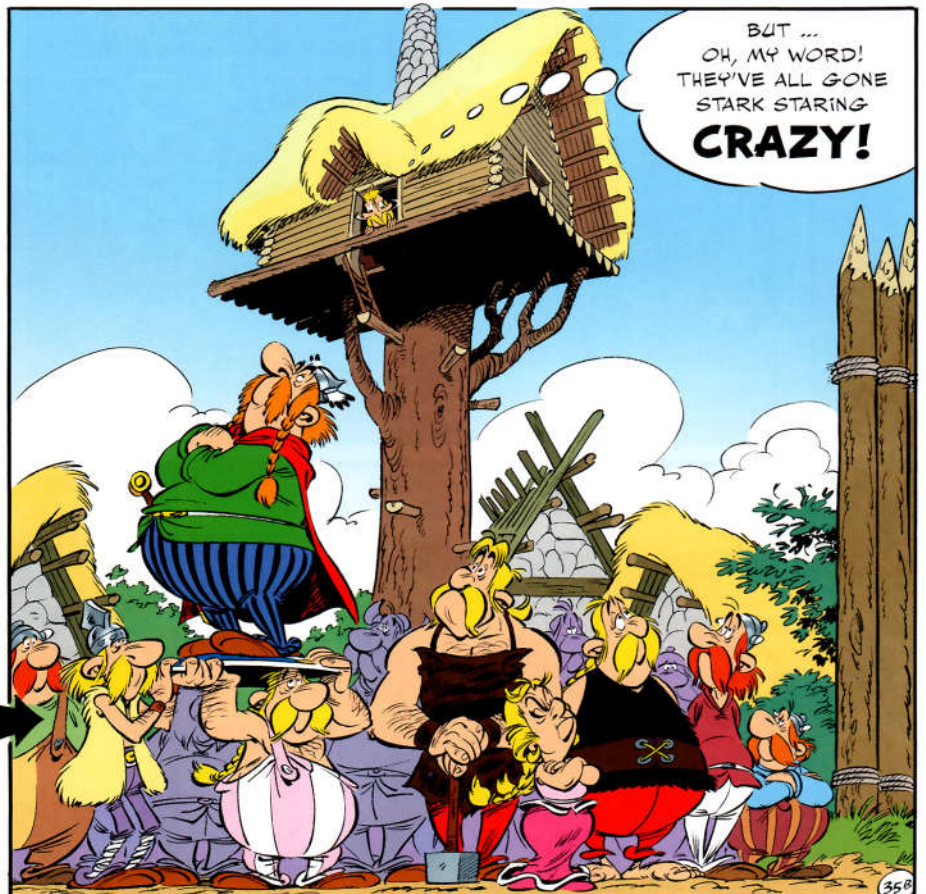
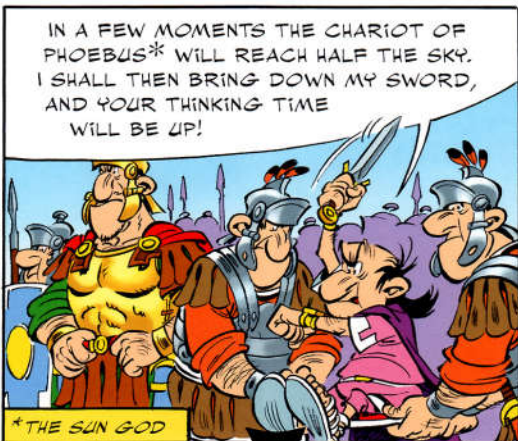
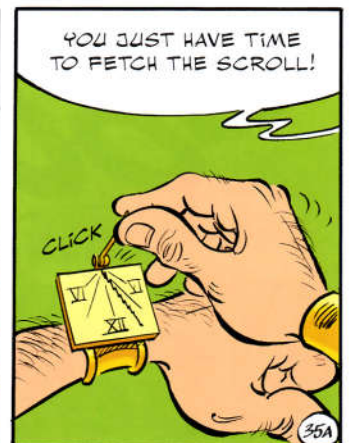
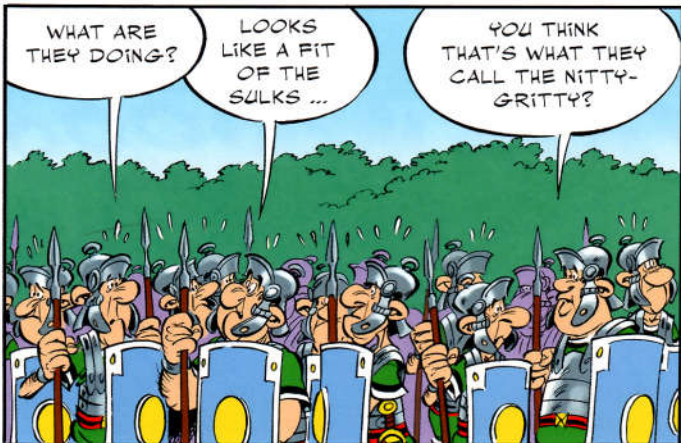
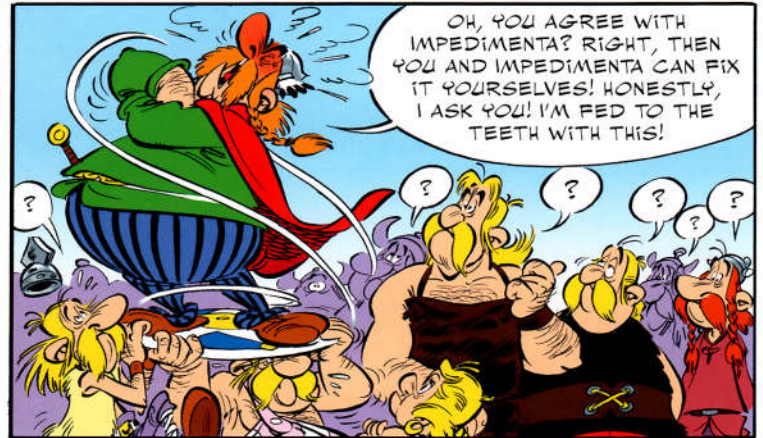
HURRY UP, GET TO THE NITTY-GRITTY!

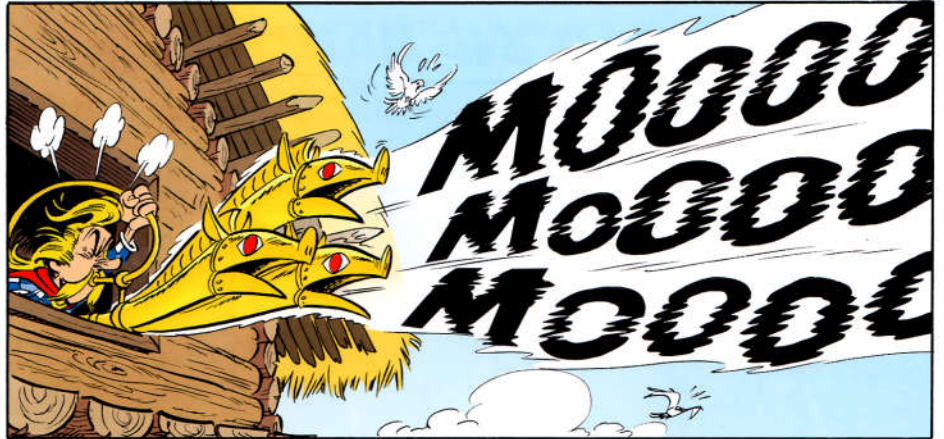
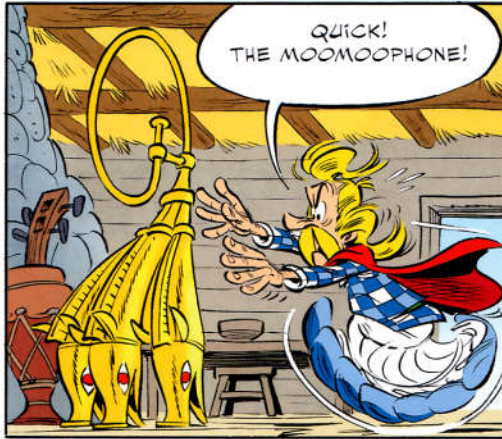
I'LL GET TO THE NITTY-GRITTY WHEN I SEE FIT, SO THERE!



BLAH BLAH BLAH!

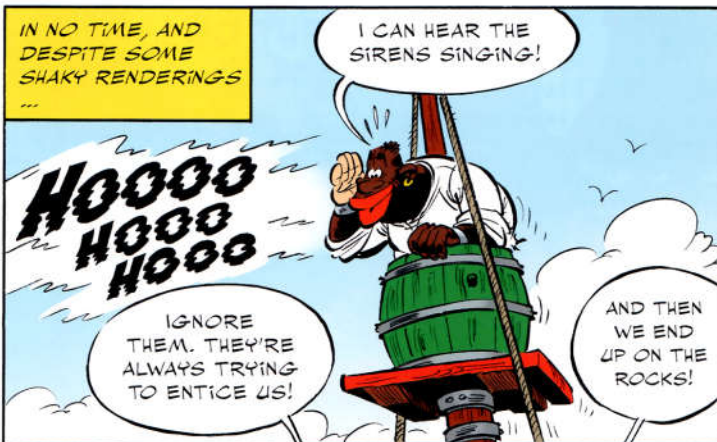
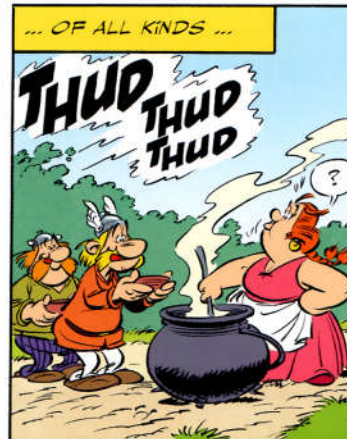
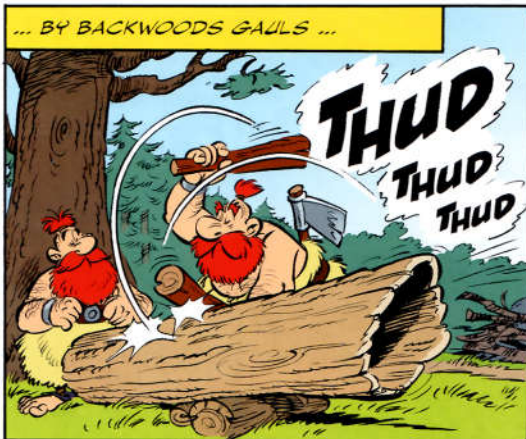
I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS NITTY-GRITTY IS, BY JUPITER!

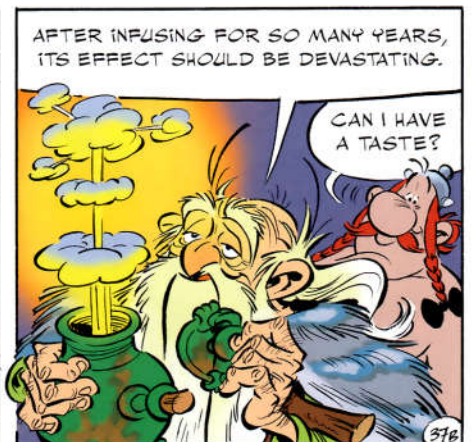
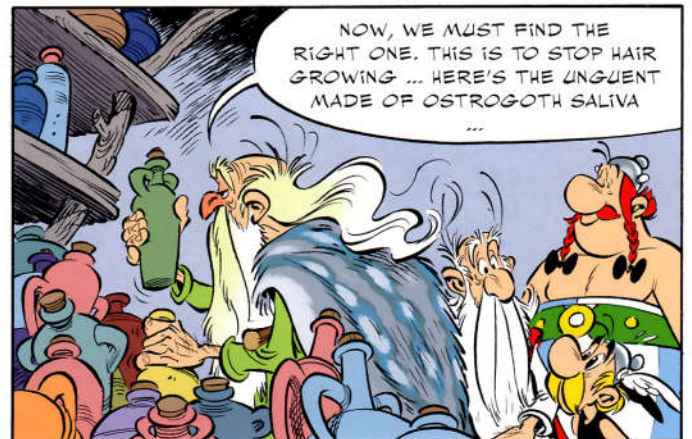
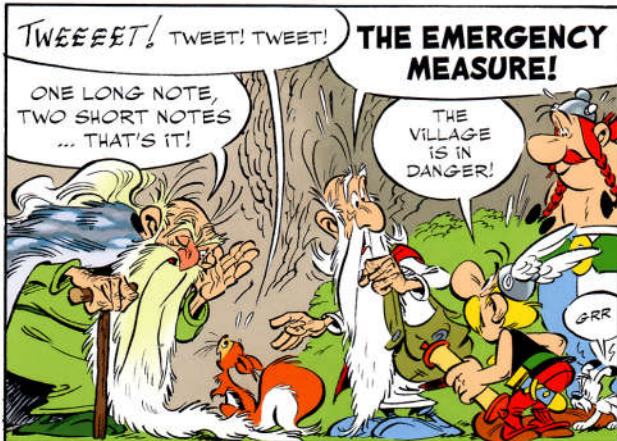


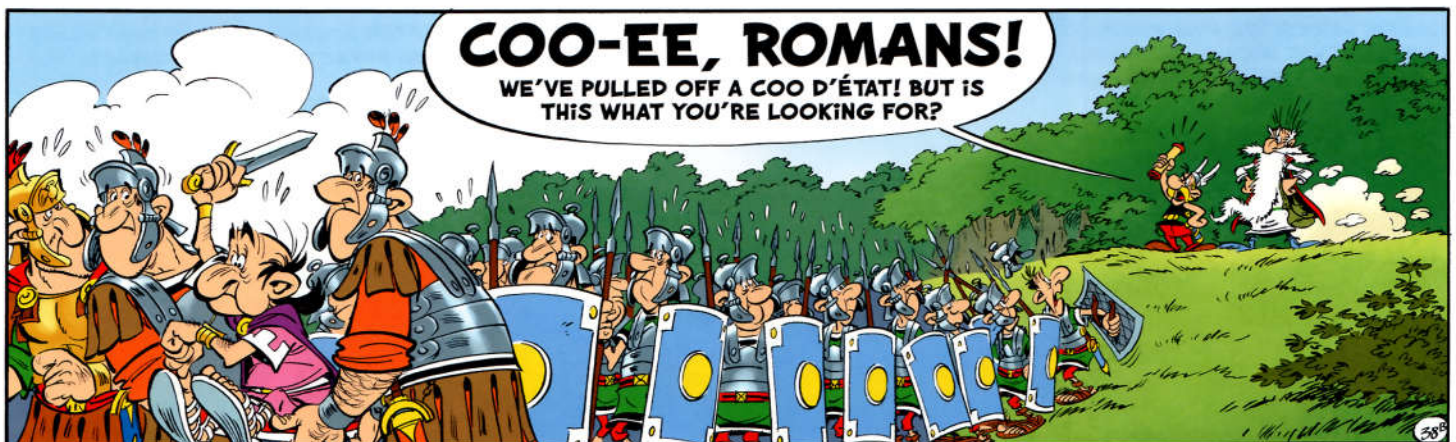
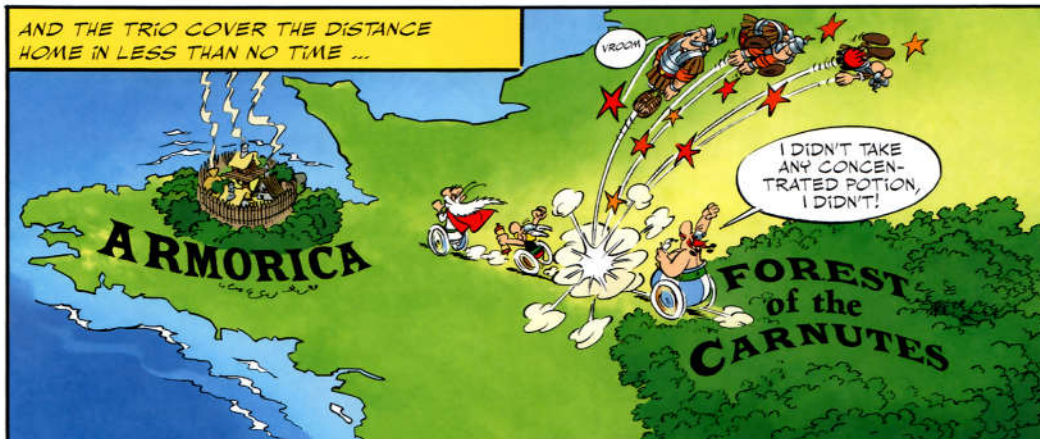
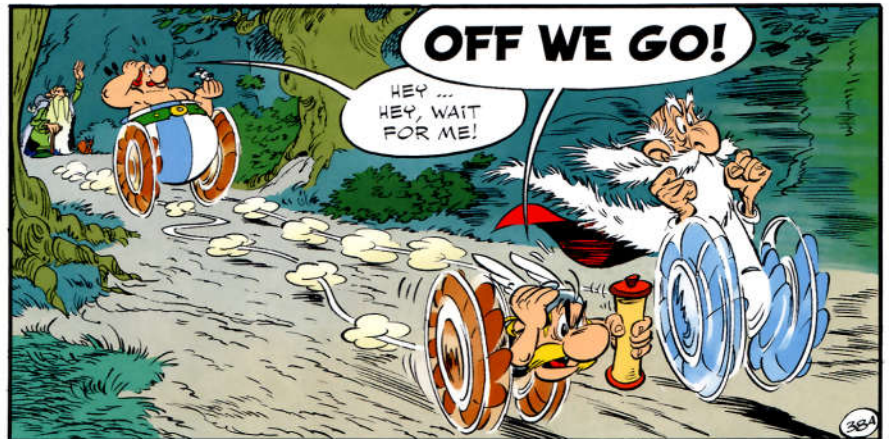
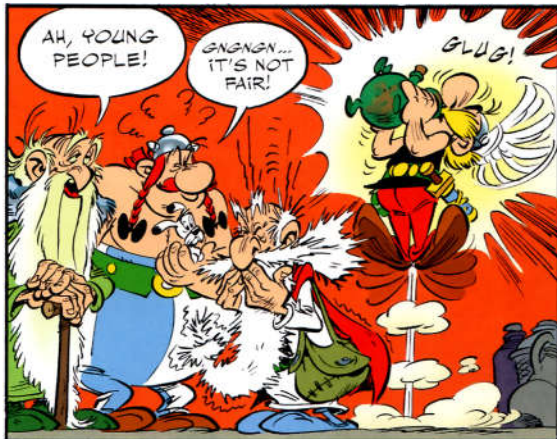
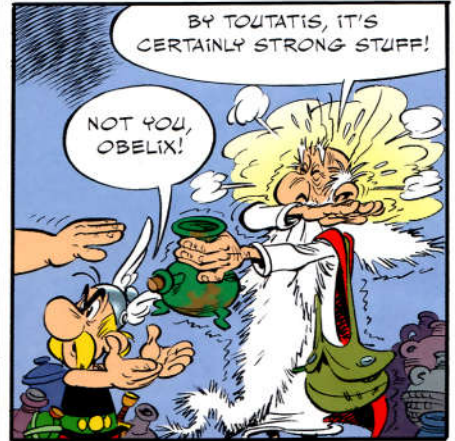


THE CALL OF THE MOOMOO-
PHONE IS IMMEDIATELY HEARD
FOR LEAGUES ALL AROUND ...

... AND ACCORDING TO AN AGREED
CODE, IT IS SOON PASSED ON
IN ALL DIRECTIONS ...







THE SCROLL! GIVE ME THE SCROLL, YOU IGNORANT BARBARIAN!

YOU'RE WELCOME, BUT FREE THE HOSTAGE FIRST!



SET THE NEWSMONGER FREE!



HERE YOU ARE. AND KNOW, ROMAN, THAT THE GAULS HAVE NO USE FOR A BIT OF PAPYRUS!

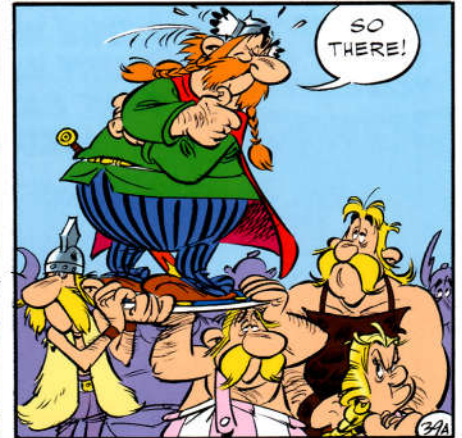
TEEHEE! LITTLE DO YOU KNOW! YOU'LL SOON SEE!



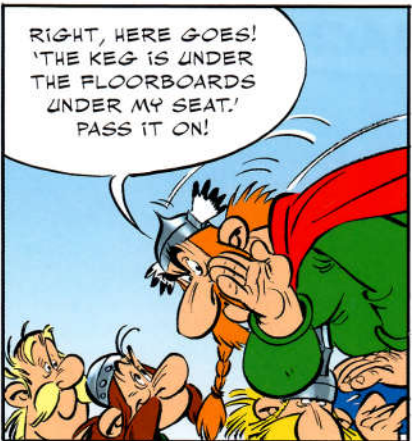
VITALSTATISTIX! WHAT'S ALL THIS COMMOTION WITH THE ROMANS? WHY DON'T YOU GIVE THE SIGNAL? AFTER ALL, YOU'RE THE CHIEF!



SO THERE!



RIGHT, HERE GOES! 'THE KEG IS UNDER THE FLOORBOARDS UNDER MY SEAT.' PASS IT ON!



AT ONCE THE FAMOUS GAULISH ORAL TRADITION COMES INTO PLAY ...

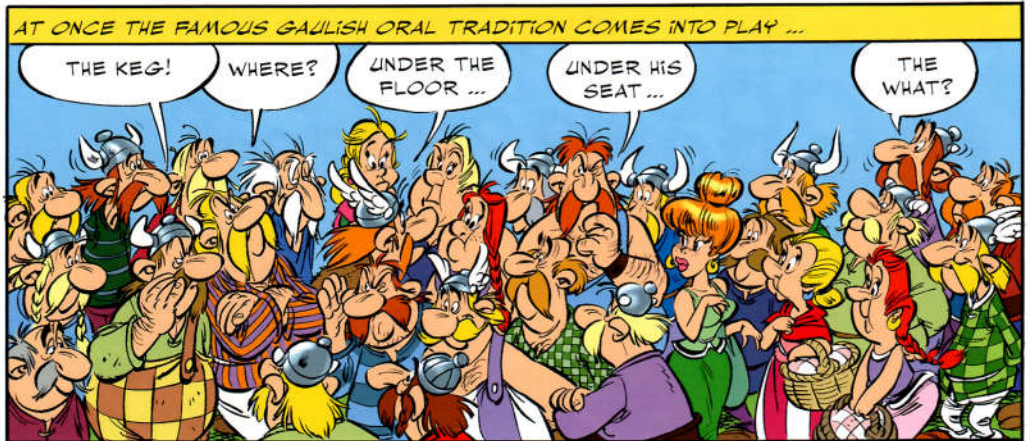
THE KEG!

WHERE?

UNDER THE FLOOR ...

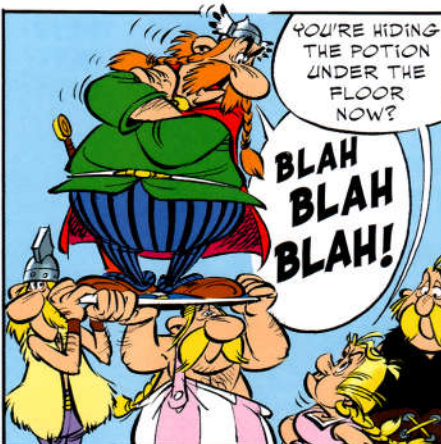
UNDER HIS SEAT ...

THE WHAT?



YOU'RE HIDING THE POTION UNDER THE FLOOR NOW?

BLAH BLAH BLAH!

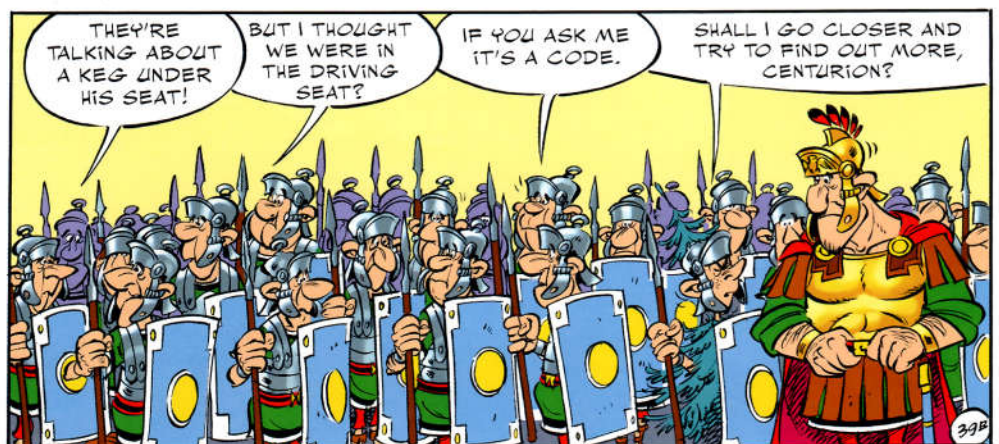


THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT A KEG UNDER HIS SEAT!

BUT I THOUGHT WE WERE IN THE DRIVING SEAT?

IF YOU ASK ME IT'S A CODE.

SHALL I GO CLOSER AND TRY TO FIND OUT MORE, CENTURION?



THAT CAESAR LIED!

THAT CAESAR LIED!

YES, THIS CONCENTRATED POTION IS GREAT! IT'S CURED MY BAD BACK!

**HELP!
HELP!**

YES, THIS CONCENTRATED POTION IS GREAT! IT'S CURED MY BAD BACK!

**HELP!
HELP!**

**WHERE ARE THEY? WHERE ARE THEY?
THEY'RE CRAZY TO RUN SO FAST!**

**THE BULK OF THEIR
TROOPS! THE FAT
WARRIOR!
HELP!**



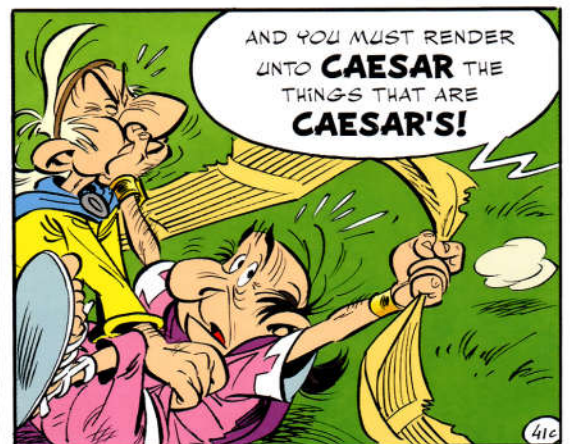
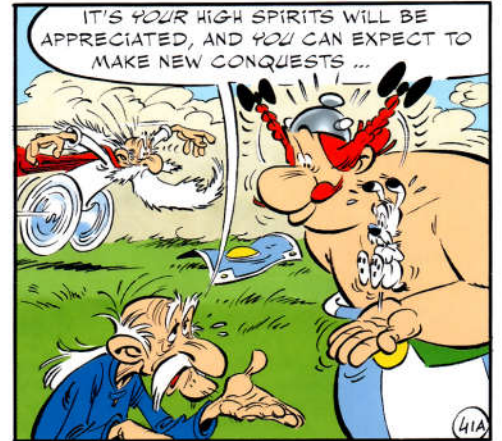
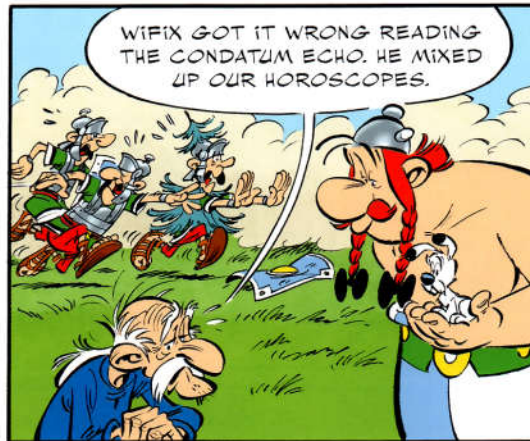
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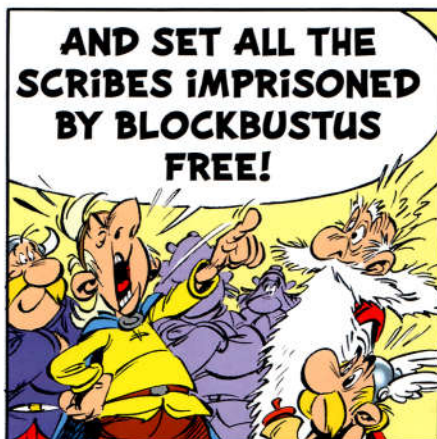
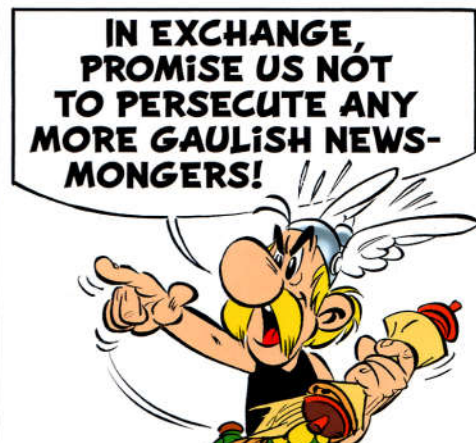
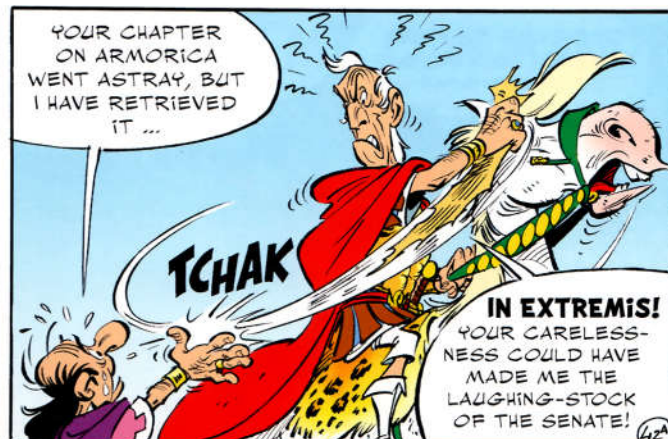
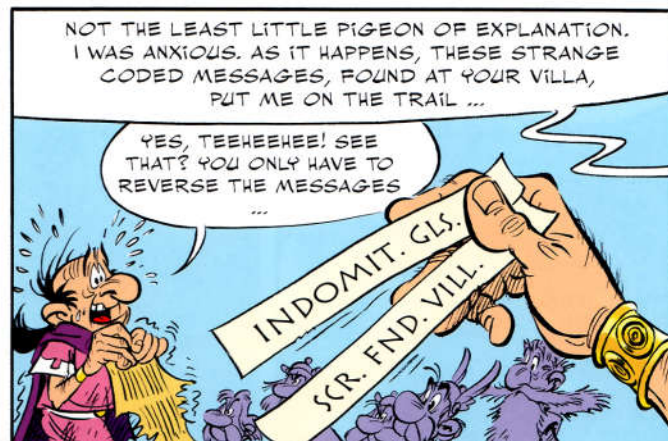
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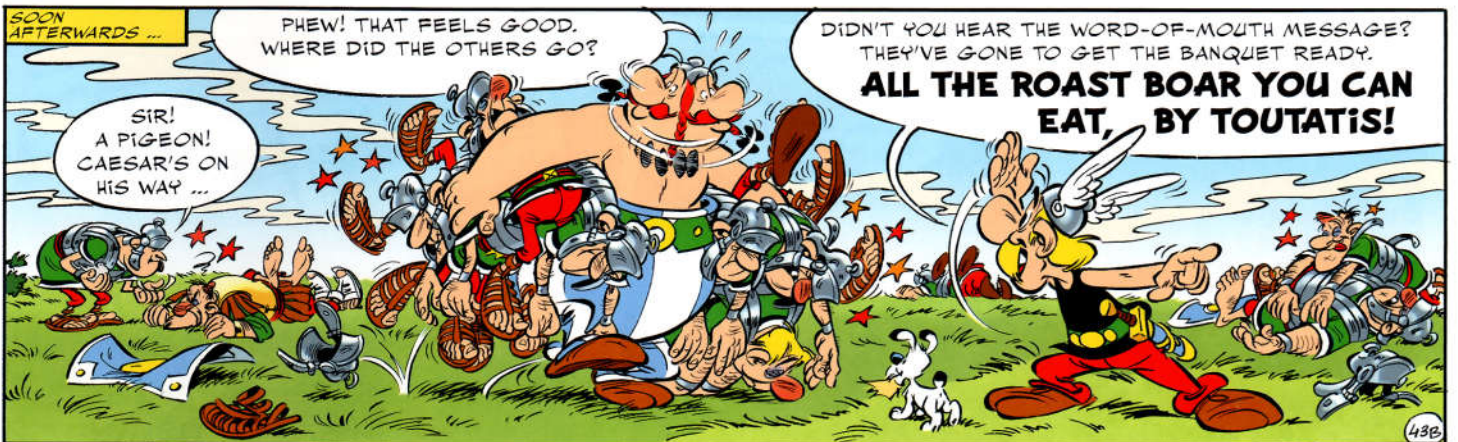
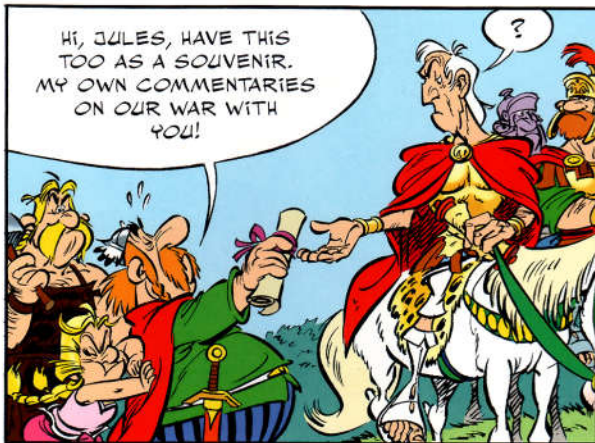
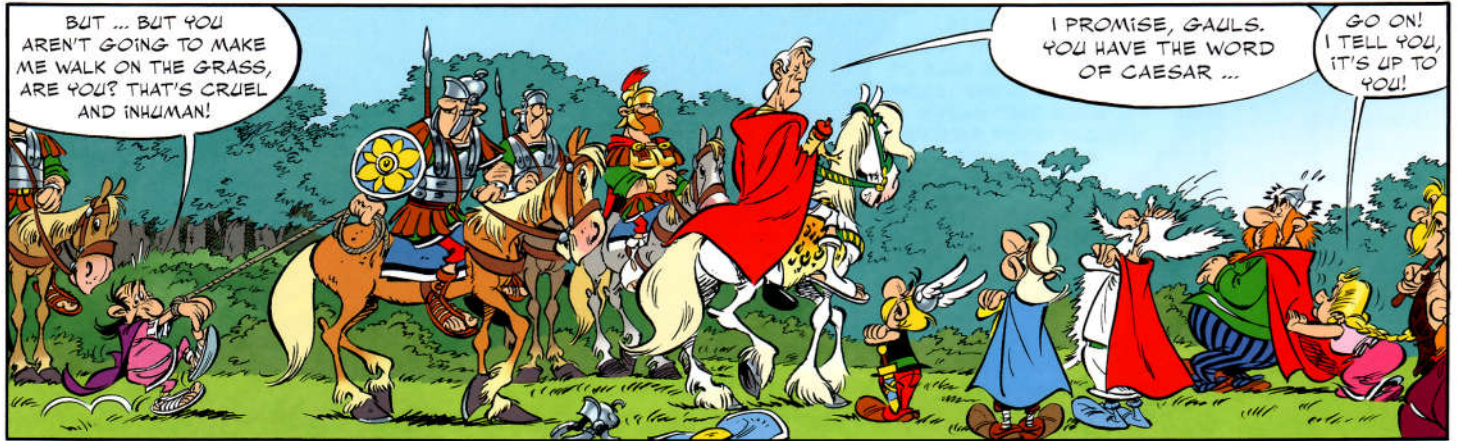
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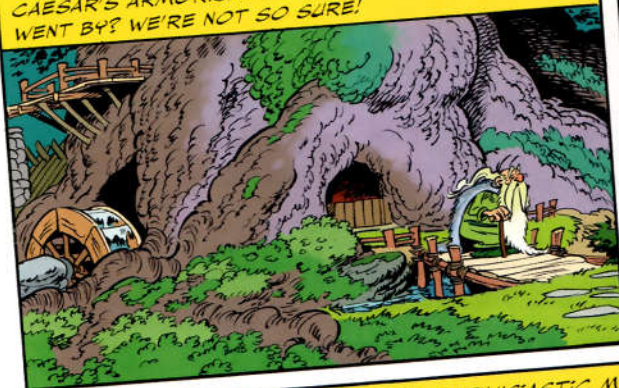






Post-Scriptum

WAS ALL MEMORY OF THAT CHAPTER ABOUT
CAESAR'S ARMORICAN DEFEATS LOST AS TIME
WENT BY? WE'RE NOT SO SURE!



IT IS SAID THAT ITS CONTENTS WERE
PASSED ON FROM DRUID TO DRUID BY
WORD OF MOUTH, IN THE GOOD OLD WAY ...



... AND THAT IN SPITE OF
CERTAIN DISTORTIONS ...

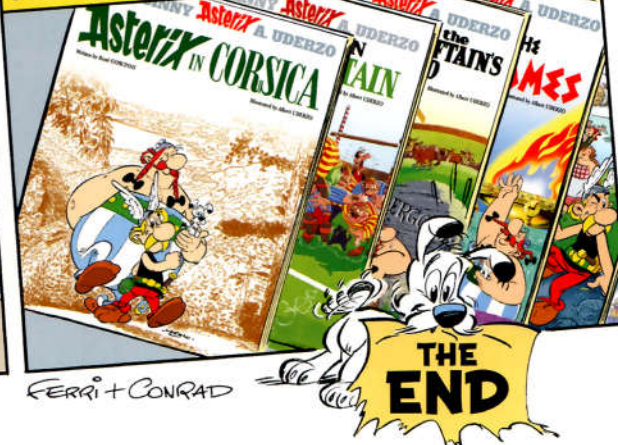
WAS THE DRUID'S
NAME GEOGRAFIX
OR GEODESIX?



... IT REACHED THE EARS OF TWO ENTHUSIASTIC MODERN
SCRIBES WHO WROTE IT ALL DOWN IN DETAIL ...



... AND THEN BASED A SERIES OF ENTERTAINING STORIES
ON IT ... BUT OF COURSE THAT'S ONLY HEARSAY!



Julius Caesar
has finished
writing the history
of his campaigns
in Gaul. His
publisher, Libellus
Blockbustus, foresees
a huge success ... but
there's a snag: the
chapter about Caesar's
defeats by the indomitable
Gauls of Armorica.
Cut it, Blockbustus advises,
and everyone will believe
that Caesar conquered
all Gaul. Or will they?
Newsmonger and activist
Confoundtheirpolitix takes
the chapter to Asterix's
village. Can the Gauls make
sure the truth is revealed?





DOGMATIX!!!

